

# The Handbook for Business, the Bible

## #35: In all labour there is profit

*"In all labour there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty"* Proverbs 14:23 - NKJV

In God's economy labour & profit work together; "idle chatter" signifies profit with no labour

\* The deal is: labour builds profit & profit builds wealth; thus, no labour = no wealth!

**As Christian business owners, we need to understand this principle:**

- 1: National anthem, *"We've golden soil and wealth for toil...our land abounds in nature's gifts*  
...Soil + nature's gifts (sunlight, water, energy) are God's contribution to wealth  
...Toil or labour (includes physical, wisdom, ingenuity) is the human contribution
- 2: Clearly, the # 1 wealth creating asset is a business - your business...  
...All the wealthy people in the OT were business owners  
...All the Apostles + Paul were businessmen; Joseph & Jesus were too - carpenters
- 3: Many assets today involve no toil, being bits of paper or computer blips...  
...Jesus referred to these - *"the deceitfulness of riches that choke the Word"* - Matthew 13:22  
...Solomon referred to them as *"riches that make wings and fly away"* - Proverbs 23:5

**The bottom line: WEALTH and RICHES are NOT the same, especially for Christians:**

- \* You invest in wealth, but speculate in riches
- \* Wealth is always tangible; you can touch it; riches are always intangible
- \* You control wealth but have no control over riches, always relying on others
- \* Wealth always has a value & can't fly away; riches can & often do crash to zero value
- \* It's common today to have a lot of riches but little wealth
- \* Listen to a rich person talk (i.e., boast - Psalm 49:6); then listen to a wealthy person
- \* The whole riches industry is rife with deceit, lies, cheating & charlatans.

**Some investment principles that come out of this comparison:**

- \* Riches are merely an IOU or promise to pay - someone else's liability
- \* Riches can be seen as a 'claim' to wealth (i.e., an underlying asset)
- \* If your asset is mortgaged, you don't own it, the lender does; as well as the equity
- \* If you don't understand the deal, the risk or paperwork, don't buy-in = a riches trap
- \* If riches can fly away, then there is no long-term security if you buy into them
- \* A big mistake I see - people cash in their wealth assets & put proceeds into riches
- \* If you haven't yet been deceived by riches, you will be!

**Counsel: Potentially your greatest wealth asset is the business you labour in:**

- \* So, take care of it, nurture it, consult the owner & His handbook constantly, for direction
- \* Use your business to serve others - family, customers, employees, suppliers, community,
- \* Profit earned from our labour + His resources can then be shared around - Eccles 5:9
- \* If your profit comes per Handbook rules, you as steward/manager, will avoid poverty!