

# ***A good name?***

## **Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs**

***A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,  
and loving favour rather than silver and gold. –***

**Proverbs 22:1.**

---

### **Other scriptures, which teach the same truth:**

*A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. – Ecclesiastes 7:1.*

*The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot. -- Proverbs 10:7.*

---

***A good name*** – What is a good name? One can either have a good name or an evil name. A person who has a good name will never be thought of as evil, vile, wicked, bad, or repulsive. Reputation is another word for one's name. Even children, no matter how young, have a reputation. Reputation is what others think of you. What one does, whether he is just, clean, and chaste, or whether he is unjust, impure, and unchaste contributes to his name. When a person is chaste and righteous, he will have a good name.

*Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. -- Proverbs 20:11*

***Is rather to be chosen*** – Each person must make a choice concerning his name or his reputation. What a person is and what he does makes his name. We remember Nero, one of the vile Roman emperors, as a wicked person. The mere mention of Nero’s name brings up the thought of a bad name. When someone mentions the name of the Apostle Paul, then our thoughts turn to a just, honest, industrious, good man. A man once said, “We name our boys, Paul; but we name our dogs, Nero.” Children need to be aware of this choice early in life. Parents can be most influential in guiding their children toward a good name by training them in Godly principles. Such training will help them greatly in making a positive choice for a good name.

***than great riches*** -- Riches are not necessarily evil. Abraham was a righteous and rich man because God blessed him with riches. It is clear from scripture that Abraham did not labor to be rich, but was careful to guard his good name. The choice to be rich over having a good name is a bad choice. The infamous criminal, Al Capone, chose riches over a good name. He died in dishonor and disdain. For the criminals and evil men, riches are most important, but no matter how much wealth a man attains unlawfully, his name will rot. Besides, riches get themselves wings.

*Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. – Proverbs 23:4,5.*

**and loving favour --** Loving favour could be called kind regard. Kindness goes a long way and regard for God and others who are created in the image of God is a trait to be earnestly sought after.

**rather than silver and gold. --** Kind regard for others is worth far more than the most precious of metals – silver and gold. Kind regard for others is closely akin to love – if it isn't love itself. When one has concern for another person and extends kindness, those acts of concern are worth far more to the person who receives them than gold and silver. Peter said to the crippled man at the beautiful gate, *"Gold and silver have I none, but such as I have, I give unto thee, Arise, take up thy bed and walk."*

How about you? How is your name? If others were to describe you, what would they say if they told the truth? Do you treat others righteously and mercifully? Do you really have kindness and regard for God and others? You have a reputation of some kind. Have you chosen a good name?

