

## Elder Bobby Willis



### Treasure and Oil

Proverbs 21:20, **“There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.”**

The son of King David, Solomon, was given a great portion of wisdom by God and much of his writing reflects this wisdom. There are two things mentioned in Proverbs 21:20, treasure and oil, as to how they are viewed by those who are wise and those who are foolish. Both of these things are presented as being good and profitable for those who use them well.

First, consider that it mentions these two things as being in the **“dwelling”**. A dwelling is usually indicating where we live and where our family abides with us. Not only does the head of the house (here indicated by being a wise man) benefit from the treasure and the oil, everyone in the house (dwelling) gets the same benefits.

Secondly, consider the last half of the sentence where it speaks of a **“foolish man”** which is singular. He alone is the problem! Through his foolish behavior and selfishness, all of the treasure and oil was quickly used up and was of no long lasting benefit to his house. His actions affected others which is a lesson we all need to learn.

I personally do not feel that Solomon was alluding to treasures of great monetary value, for a wise man would know there is something greater. Notice the words of Matthew 6:19-21, **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** The key to these verses is verse 21. While we dwell on this earth, our hearts and minds should be centered on the Lord’s promise of a heavenly dwelling in Paradise with Him in eternity. To think upon our Lord and what He has done for us is a treasure to hold on to with all our strength.

The oil, likewise, was and is beneficial to the children of God. Whether it be “**the oil of gladness**” (Hebrews 1:9), anointing “**oil in the name of the Lord**” (James 5:14), or the Lord’s oil of enlightenment (Matthew 25:4), the benefits of the oil which God blesses us with - is not measurable.

Let us not be foolish in dealing with the blessings of God, but rather use them wisely for our benefit in serving Him and to His praise, honor and glory. “***Think About It!***”