

Recognition

Developing a biblical view of Success (Part 2)

1 Kings 10:1-13; Ecclesiastes, Proverbs

- I. The Queen of Sheba praised Solomon for being the greatest king of all (1 Kings 10:1-13).
 - A. The Queen of Sheba came to examine Solomon's greatness and connection to the Lord (10:1-5).
 - B. The queen affirmed that Solomon was even greater than she heard, and praised God (10:6-9).
 - C. The queen and Solomon exchanged lavish gifts (10:10-13).

- II. Solomon's sober thinking: Human recognition is meaningless unless we honor God above all.
 - A. Seeking recognition is a meaningless pursuit.
 1. You can be praised your whole life, yet you will be soon forgotten (Eccl 1:11).
 2. Popularity and praise are fleeting as we are replaced by those who are younger (Eccl 4:13-16).
 3. Achievements are meaningless if they come from competitive desires to impress others (Eccl 4:4).
 4. Recognition is often meaningless as the wicked get praise (8:10) and fools get high positions (10:6).
 - B. Honor God above all and then we can trust him about any other honor we receive.
 1. Everything God does should prompt us to worship (Eccl 3:14).
 2. Human honor and recognition is not evil; it's a gift God can give (1 Kings 3:13; Psalm 84:11).
 3. Pursue godly character and leave honor to God and others (Prov 3:3-4; 21:21; 22:1; 27:2; Eccl 7:1).
 4. Follow the example of Christ who humbled himself and God exalted him (Philippians 2:5-11).