

A GOOD NAME  
Prov. 22:1

Intro:

Those running for office, Judges, etc. often subjected to most grueling investigations; for good reason for they'll hold most valued and responsible positions. Very often "accused" by another. Justice is served when the accusation cannot be proven and doubt goes to the one accused not the accuser. Such was case under the Law: Nu. 35:30. Other passages: De. 19:15; Jo. 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; Heb. 10:28.

- I. Definition: "Name" -- stands for the character and work of the person.  
A. Job 30:8 "...children of base men" -- in margin, "men of no name."  
B. "Good" means favorable, righteous, right.

II. Has Preference Above Great Riches: Prov. 22:1.

- A. "Chosen" -- root idea is "to take a keen look at."  
1. Lot chose the plain because it was well watered, etc. (Gen. 13:11).  
2. Here it involves a "well thought out choice."  
3. Both items mentioned here are of great value.  
4. Illustrates well the truth that riches are not the foundation of a "good" name.  
B. Two illustrations that help us put riches in proper place:  
1. Good name.  
2. Loving favor --- "loving" means joyful, precious, correct, righteous favor in "being loved." This kind of "favor" money can't buy! This is the kind of "name" money can't buy!

III. Better Than Precious Ointment, Eccl. 7:1.

- A. Notice word "better" here. Common catch word in series of proverbs here -- 7:1-10; you have many proverbs of "better" things.  
1. Root refers to what is "beneficial, good, pleasant, happy, right."

So even when comparing things beneficial a good name goes beyond the benefits of precious (beneficial) things.

IV. Defamation Of:

- A. Ex. 20:16.  
1. Necessity of "witnesses" (plural) as mentioned at beginning.  
2. Other important verses: Lev. 5:1 (knowledge of sin); Prov. 29:24; Dt. 17:7; Lev. 24:14.  
3. The other side, the dark side of witnesses when justice is abused and a good name is defamed because the witnesses are "false." Their penalty: De. 19:16-21.  
4. In spite of many warnings "false witnesses" a common thing: Prov. 6:19; 12:17; 14:5; 19:5; 24:28; 25:18.  
5. Shows us why the innocent must be protected against lying accusers!  
6. Examples: Matt. 26:59-61; 28:15; Acts 6:13; 17:6; 25:7.

B. Slander:

1. Ps. 31:13 (Jeremiah spoke similar words, Jer. 20:10).
2. Do you have sympathy for? Can you feel the agony and see the suffering of those today? Enemies watch and wait to prevail over and destroy today!
3. Just how interested are you in helping the "innocent"? Fear, politics, vested interests prevent.

V. Maintaining A Good Name.

A. Give adversary no occasion: I Tim. 5:14; 6:1; I Pet. 2:12; 4:14-16.

B. Proper "use" of witnesses:

1. Matt. 18:16 --- follow the rules Christ laid down and you'll see His wisdom in giving them! They're for your protection as well as what is best for the one who sinned too!
2. I Tim. 5:19.

Conclusion: Isa. 56:5 -- a name to be given to children of God; a name "better than of sons and daughters" i.e. better than descendants. In context -- what the eunuch receives from God is better than what sons and daughters could give. The converted eunuch in Acts 8 has that name! He has a good name. You can have that particular name too.

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