This verse provides wisdom that applies both practically and spiritually. The message is clear: a lifestyle centered around pleasure and indulgence can lead to ruin—financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

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1. Practical/Physical Application

In everyday life, loving luxury and pleasure—without discipline—leads to poverty. People who prioritize entertainment, status, or material things over saving, planning, and investing often find themselves struggling.

In biblical times, “wine and oil” symbolized luxury (Psalm 104:15). The mention here isn’t just about food or drink; it reflects a lifestyle of excess. For example, someone earning a modest income yet spending most of it on expensive perfumes or the latest gadgets just to appear fashionable is living beyond their means.

Theological Insight:
Scripture consistently promotes stewardship and contentment. Paul writes,

> *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” – 1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV)*

Chasing pleasure often reflects discontent and poor stewardship of God-given resources.

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2. Spiritual/Theological Application

From a spiritual perspective, indulgence in worldly pleasures often reflects a deeper issue—spiritual poverty or lack of intimacy with God.

Jesus, in the Parable of the Sower, explains how spiritual growth can be choked out by worldly distractions:

> *“As for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.” – Luke 8:14 (ESV)*

Pleasure in itself isn’t sinful—God created us with the ability to enjoy good things—but when pleasure becomes our focus, it competes with our devotion to God. Modern examples include excessive entertainment, social media addiction, or weekend partying that takes up the time meant for prayer, service, or Scripture reading.

Theological Insight:
The heart of Christian discipleship is self-denial and focus on eternal things:

> *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” – Colossians 3:2 (NIV)*
> *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21 (NIV)*

A pleasure-driven life can distort our desires, misplace our treasures, and numb us to the things of God.

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3. Wisdom and Discipline in Daily Living

The book of Ecclesiastes offers additional insight:

> *“Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” – Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NIV)*

This verse teaches that learning to appreciate what you already have is wiser than constantly chasing new pleasures. It’s a call to contentment and focus.

Redeeming the Time:
Paul encourages believers to live wisely:

> *“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” – Ephesians 5:15–16 (NIV)*

Time, like money, must be stewarded well. A life revolving around pleasure leaves little room for spiritual growth and Kingdom

impact.

Conclusion: The True Riches

Proverbs 21:17 warns us: a life centered on pleasure results in poverty—not just materially, but spiritually as well. In contrast, those who live with discipline, gratitude, and focus on God’s purposes find both provision and fulfillment.

Jesus taught:

> *“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” – Matthew 6:33 (NIV)*

Shalom.

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