

1 Peter:

Debunking the Prosperity Gospel

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

2 Peter 2:1-4 (NIV)

They have eyes full of adultery and are always looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained in greed.

2 Peter 2:14 (HCSB)

Good Terms to Understand:

Proof Text: a passage of the Bible to which appeal is made in support of an argument or position in theology.

Exegesis: using the words of the text in Scripture, through the lens of their original _____, to determine their _____.

Eisegesis: reading into the text with a _____ notion we may have of the _____.

Okay, let's examine some prosperity prooftexts and use Exegesis on them!

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

3 John 1:2 (NIV)

Dear friend, I pray that you may prosper in every way and be in good health physically just as you are spiritually

3 John 1:2 (HCSB)

Verse in Context:

The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

² Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ³ It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified

about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 1:1-4 (NIV)

Meaning: It is a _____, not a theological statement.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

Mark 10:29-30 (NIV)

Meaning: The context is not about _____. It is about _____ earthly treasures to follow Christ, not _____ them.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

Meaning: We are rich _____, not necessarily _____.

You do not have because you do not ask God.

James 4:2b (NIV)

Context:

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:1-3 (NIV)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5 (NIV)

Meaning: Peter is not telling us how to _____, but condemning our _____.