

BUSINESS

*7 The wise man is turned into a fool by a **bribe**; it destroys his understanding. 8 Finishing is better than starting! Patience is better than pride! 9 Don't be quick-tempered—that is being a fool. Ecclesiastes 7:7-9*

One person climbs a mountain and struggles to reach the top. A friend steps off a helicopter at the summit. Which person enjoys the view more? The one from the helicopter says, "It's a nice view, but probably not worth the price of a 'copter ride." The climber says, "It's beautiful. Every aching muscle makes it look that much better."

King Solomon describes a bribe as nothing, but a shortcut dressed in green. It's using money or some other asset to get your way without earning it. It will corrupt your integrity and destroy the purity of your heart. Yes, the hard way is better. As Robert Frost said, "The best way out is always through." Satan takes the shortcut and knows that if we can be persuaded to take the easy way, we have sold ourselves out in the name of convenience and opened the door to selling out everything else that is meaningful.

When you are in business, the easy way is to cut some corners, turn in the phony expense report, or give the customer a little less than he contracted for. It's a jungle out there, and who is going to know? The hard way will always be tough; there are no shortcuts. But it's made just a bit easier when we stop to remember that God never fails, that all His endings are happy ones, and that every bruise leads to deeper blessings. (Excerpt from David Jeremiah.)

During this pandemic, many businesses have made difficult decisions and will be faced with more in the future so we pray that they will seek God's direction through it all. As customers we can support them with understanding, patronage, and goodwill.

Pray these words or others as you are led.

Almighty God,

We thank you for the opportunity to use the talents that You have blessed us with to provide goods and services for others. Help us God to turn from the shortcut and go the hard way. We pray for a cheerful and generous heart as we serve You by serving others. We pray for business leaders to comprehend their great opportunity to create powerful, effective, and productive businesses that win when they Love One Another. We pray during the pandemic that You would guide their direction and that customers will support them through it all. Thy will be done. In Jesus' name.

Amen