

**July 22, 2018**

**(Hidden Series): Seeing God in Every Day Moment of Life**

**“Money in Proverbs”, Selected Proverbs**

For five weeks, we will study Proverbs (mostly attributed to Solomon, King David's son) where God shows how He wants the world to operate and how things ought to be. Generally, a proverb is a short saying which expresses a general truth or principle about life, but should not be taken as an absolute. Today we will focus on Scripture, especially Proverbs, where we see that God cares about what we choose to do with our money. Although money & wealth are good (Prov. 14:24) & a blessing from the Lord (Prov. 10:22, 13:22), the book of Proverbs reminds us that money & possessions by themselves can be easily distorted & can destroy us.

**Ways to view our money and possessions.**

1. It is foolish to put your trust in money and possessions (Proverbs 11:28), but it is wise to put your trust in God. (Proverbs 11:28-). Ultimately our view of money and possessions is an issue of our heart: We either trust in money/possessions or we trust in God. We cannot do both. (Luke 16:13)
2. It is unwise to invest your life in the temporary (Proverbs 23:4-5), but It is wise to invest your life for the eternal. Quote from Pastor Paul Tripp about “eternity amnesia”, finding ourselves only living for the here and now, when eternity awaits us.
3. A foolish life is a greedy life (Proverbs 11:24), but a wise life is a generous life. (Proverbs 11:24). Even in severe trial, the Macedonian churches overflowed with joy, and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (II Cor. 8:1-5)

**Reasons for giving:** (Proverbs 3:9-10)

1. It leads to joy.
2. It blesses us in this life and/or eternity. Living with an eternal view changes priorities about money and possessions. Focusing our energies on what is most important, we are reminded that our contentment is found in Jesus and His grace.
3. It reveals our hearts, outflowing with generosity.
4. Giving helps keep our heart in the right place, fighting against the temptations that money and possessions bring.
5. In giving, we find real satisfaction in being a part of the work of God's kingdom.

**How much should I give and where is first priority?**

The 10% tithe comes from the Old Testament. In the New Testament, examples of giving go far beyond the tithe. We should give part of our income on a regular basis to God, then pray and follow the leading of the Spirit in giving beyond. Our first obligation is to give to the local church because God is using the local church as the means by which the gospel is to be proclaimed throughout the whole world.

We know that Jesus who owns everything, gave it all up, and became poor, so that we might gain everything in Him. (II Cor. 8:9). As Christians, we need the grace of Jesus to find real satisfaction in life here and now, and He gives us an eternal perspective in His Kingdom which overflows in our generosity to those around us. (Hebrews 13:5-6).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. As unbelievers, we might agonize with the Rolling Stones over the idea that “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction”. Where have you looked for real satisfaction/contentment in life... and failed or where have you looked ... and succeeded?
2. If you believe that all you possess comes from God, then how do you figure out how much to keep for your own needs and how much for His Kingdom work? And what is Kingdom work?
3. Is there a difference between good debt and bad debt for Christians?
4. Are wealthy folks more challenged to be faithful than those who have to work hard to make ends meet?
5. What would generosity look like in your daily life?
6. Is our first response to money/possessions anxiety, fear, hoarding, or greed? Or is it faith, stewardship, obedience, generosity, blessing? Examples of what Jesus said about money?