

Money Matters... But Not That Much Proverbs 3:5-16

Why talk about money? **Because money matters!** Not how much we have, but how we relate to it! God's Word has much to say on this topic!

If we want to "foolproof" our lives – to keep ourselves from actin' the fool, then seeking wisdom about money, how we pursue it/use it, is so important

Proverbs 3:9 declares that we are to - **"Honor the Lord with our wealth..."**

What we do with money is either an act of worship or an act of idolatry!

This is why Jesus talked about money possibly more than anything else! He knew that **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** - Matt 6:21

If what we treasure is God & His Kingdom, then our hearts will beat for that, but if our treasure is wealth/ riches then consumed by that we will be.

Money matters... but not as much as the condition of our hearts!

God wants our hearts, our whole heart, but too often we give our hearts away to the things of this world! Read **Matthew 6:19-24**

These are strong words, but true! We are either focused on God's Kingdom & the advancement of it, or we are focused on our kingdom in this world!

One kingdom will last for all of eternity, the other is here today & gone tomorrow!

Money & wealth are not the enemy, they are gifts from God, but if misused & misunderstood they become the source of much of life's perils & sin.

It's why Paul would declare to Timothy – **"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."** - 1 Timothy 6:10

Do you see now why we must talk about money? What kind of pastor would I be, and how faithful to God's Word would I be if I neglected this?

Proverbs gets right to the issue here in Ch. 3 Vs. 5 – **"Trust in the Lord..."**

Do we trust God's commands when it comes to money? How do you respond to vs. 9 - **"Honor God with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce."** What is your immediate reaction to that verse?

Do we trust God to provide for us if we respond obediently? "Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

This is the one area where God says we can test Him in – **Malachi 3:10!**

Do we trust God with His rebuke in this area of money? "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves those He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." Vs. 11-12

Are we willing to **"In all our ways acknowledge Him"** – that He is God, that His ways are perfect, that He cares for us, & that He has our best in mind?

Isn't it ironic that we have **"In God We Trust"** printed on our currency, yet it is with our money that we so often show our most lack of trust in Him!

We struggle with this because too often we lean on our own understanding. But Proverbs reminds us, **"Trust in the Lord...Be not wise in your own eyes..."**

If we can trust God to forgive our sins, to save us from the consequences of sin, if we can trust Him w/our eternity, why can't we trust Him w/our wealth

We are quick to point out reasons for why we don't honor God in this area, but the real reason lies within ourselves! Greed, covetousness, selfishness, idolatry all reside within our sinful hearts. The only remedy is surrender!

Everything we have is a gift from God, how can we not live with open hands?

"We are called by God to offer Him a meaningful portion of our economic livelihood, 1) to keep us reliant on God & not riches, & 2) to support those who have been called to serve God's people in specific biblical roles." - Anthony Selvaggio

Reason #2 is a very practical reason, "God has always used the wealth of his people to fund his work..." but reason #1 "to keep us reliant on God & not riches" is the main reason this sermon needs to be preached!

Where do we put our trust/hope? Is it in God or is it in our riches?

How we use our money reveals our real answer to that question?

Honoring God with our wealth is found in giving of our "firstfruits"! Do we give to God His portion first, or do we give to Him out of our leftovers?

Money matters, but not that much! The condition of our hearts matters more! **What do you treasure?** For that is what has a hold of your heart!

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