

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 18

The Week of February 26, 2023

Get Wisdom
Money Matters
Selected Proverbs

This week we'll reference a selection of passages from Proverbs, each dealing with the central issue of money. Both the Christian and non-Christian seek to treat money with wisdom; entire industries of financial planners, stock brokers, and investment strategists have been created for those purposes. What we find in Proverbs, and other parts of the Bible as well, is an approach to money matters that seeks God's Wisdom over the wisdom of men and women. The Bible speaks to the issue of money over 2,000 times. Let's look at just a few passages that can help us form a biblical understanding of how to approach our finances.

READ PROVERBS 3:9-14

As you read each selected passage:

- Underline each instance of sound financial advice.
- Circle each reference to the actions or consequences of how a fool handles money.
- Highlight any reference to tithing.

⁹ "Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
¹² for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.
¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold."

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

1. We begin our study this week with an immediate reference to tithing, specifically to firstfruits. In an agrarian society like many parts of the ancient world were and also in many parts of the world today, what specifically is Solomon's challenge in verses 9 and 10?

2. How does the concept of giving God our “firstfruits” translate into our everyday approach to our wealth?

3. Take a moment and examine the following Old Testament passages about tithing. Discuss how these verses provide us with a biblical understanding of tithing. Read Malachi 3:8-12, Nehemiah 10:35-37, Genesis 28:20-22, and 2 Chronicles 31:4, 5.

4. Take a moment and now examine a few New Testament passages about tithing. How do these verses deepen your understanding of how we are called to approach tithing? Read Matthew 6:21 and 23:23, Mark 12:41-44, and Romans 3:21-31.

5. Verses 11 and 12 speak to the value of God’s reproof and discipline in our lives. How have you seen God build your faith through His reproof and discipline? How has God used difficult seasons of your life financially to build your faith in Him?

6. Verses 13 and 14 use the standards of silver and gold to compare to the “return on investment” of Wisdom. How could wisdom and understanding possibly yield a bigger return of investment than silver or gold? Is Solomon merely being poetic or is he also being practical in money matters?

READ PROVERBS 10:16, 25

¹⁶ “The wage of the righteous leads to life,
the gain of the wicked to sin.”

²⁵ “When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more,
but the righteous is established forever.”

7. Verse 16 is an Old Testament precursor to Romans 6:23. Paul talks about the “gift of God” being eternal life, as Solomon refers to it as “righteousness” here. This is where we see the gospel on display. How do you define righteousness and how are we to live as righteous in regards to our finances?

8. Verse 25 is an Old Testament precursor to Matthew 7:24-27 as we studied that passage just a few weeks ago. Contrasting the wicked versus the righteous in this passage, what separates them in God's eyes?

9. The "storms of life" referenced by the tempest here in Proverbs and also by the storms that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 7 are destined for us all. Thinking in a financial context, how are we to prepare for the "storms of life" and avoid the destination of the wicked?

READ PROVERBS 30:7-9

⁷ "Two things I ask of you;
deny them not to me before I die:
⁸ Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,
⁹ lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the Lord?"
or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God."

10. There is quite a contrast given to us in these verses. Solomon is boldly asking that he not be given poverty OR riches. Why does he make such a bold request? What are the pitfalls of either?

11. He provides context for this request by using the analogy of food. All he seeks is provision for his daily life.. "give us this day our daily bread" from the Lord's prayer. What would be the consequences/blessings/hardships for us if we approached our finances in this way?

12. Verse 9 outlines the pitfalls we just referenced of the poor and the rich. Read Philippians 4:10-13 and discuss the secret that Paul gives and how that can help us live out this biblical principle.

Pray: Lord we seek wisdom to guide us in all areas of life, including our finances. We desire to honor YOU with our wealth and we ask that you give us the strength and discernment to do exactly that. Teach us to be better stewards of the resources you have blessed us with and lead us closer to yourself. Thank you Lord for your provision over us and for giving us more than we deserve. We love you Lord. Amen

