

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Mar.....Proverbs 1:1-19..... Seek Wisdom's Ways
- 2) 09 Mar.....Proverbs 1:33-3:8..... Learn Wisdom's Benefits
- 3) 16 Mar.....Proverbs 8:1-9:18..... Listen To Wisdom's Invitation
- 4) 23 Mar..... Proverbs 10:11;12:17;18:21;25:26;31..... Guard Your Speech
- 5) 30 Mar.....10:11;13:14;19:20;22:24;26;28;21;27;28..... Don't be a Slacker
- 6) 06 Apr.....3;11;13;15;16; 20;21;22;23;28;30.....**Financial Responsibility**
- 7) 13 Apr..... 3:10;11;13;14;15;16;17;18;19;20;22;25;26;27..... Godly Friendships
- 8) 20 Apr..... Mark 14:32 – 16:8.....Amazed by the Resurrection
- 9) 27 Apr.....Proverbs 20; 23; 29; 31..... Avoid Addictions
- 10) 04 May.....Proverbs 5-6..... Moral Purity
- 11) 11 May.....Proverbs 31:10-31..... Treasure Mothers
- 12) 18 May..... Song of Songs 1:1-5:1..... Righteous Romance
- 13) 25 May..... Song of Songs 5:2-8:14..... Invest in the Best

INTRODUCTION

- You can't turn too many pages in the Bible without crossing a financial-related passage. Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love
- Two Thirds (2/3s) of the Lord's parables are about Money. Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell. Only the topic of Love exceeds that of money.
- How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity - Larry Burkett (Ecc 10:19 – Money answers all things).
- There are Biblical guidelines to follow to ensure we do not put our God-given resources into a bag with holes (over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love. Proverbs alone has ~250 passages on stewardship)

Passage	Comments
The Dangers of the Prosperity Gospel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity preachers latch on to every financial passage as an absolute promise from God to get their followers to "Name it and Claim it" – but this distorts God's truth • We have to know the difference between absolute promises from God, Israel-only promises, proverbial promises, and Kingdom promises (e.g., "These things I have said to you figuratively" – John 16:25) • Prosperity on earth is not guaranteed (Pr 27:24), but Peace & Contentment are (Phil 4:7-13, Isa 55:2) • We must watch out for covetousness and materialism for God puts them in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy (Ex 18:21; Ps 119:36; Pr 21:26; Ecc 5:10-12; Jer 8:10; Mr 7:20-23; Lk 12:15; Rom 1:29; Col 3:5; Eph 5:3-5; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 6:10; Heb 13:5)
3:9-10; 11:28; 16:8	<p>Honor the Lord with Your Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:9-10. Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this an absolute promise that can be claimed for here and now? Or is it a proverbial truism? How does this apply today? ♦ If it was an absolute promise then the widow with 2 mites and the destitute faithful widows of 1Timothy 5 would not have needed to pray night and day for relief

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 16:16; 22:1-2; 23:4-5; 28:20 30:7-9	<p>Place Finances in Perspective</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LOVE of Money is the root of all evil..... 1 Tim 6:10 2. It is unscriptural to hoard..... Eccl 5:10-13; Lk 12:16-21 3. Do not work for the food that perishes John 6:27 4. Seek first the Kingdom of God Mat 6:19-34 5. Distribution and Investment of 'Talents'..... Mat 25:14-30 6. Give and it shall be given unto you Luke 6:38 7. He that gathers by labor shall increase.....Pr 13:11 8. By God's mercy do some become rich Ecc 5:19 9. The Lord makes the poor and the rich1Sam 2:7 10. God has chosen the poor to be heirs, not the rich. James 2:5 11. Meet Needs of Family 1 Tim 5:8 12. Further the Gospel Phil 4:14-18 13. Care for the Poor..... Pr 19:17; Mat 19:21 14. Give More Pr 21:26b, Acts 20:35
7 Things Worth More than Money	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Love: (Psalm 63:3) Thy lovingkindness is better than life. 2. God's Word: (Psalm 119:72) The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver 3. Wisdom: (Pr 3:13-15) Happy is the man that finds wisdom...For [she] is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. 4. Friendship: (Pr 15:17) Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. 5. Reputation: (Pr 22:1) A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. 6. Integrity: (Pr 23:23) Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. 7. Christ's Reproach: (Heb 11:26) Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ as greater riches than the treasures in Egypt
13:11; 15:27; 20:17; 21:6; 22:16	<p>Earn Money with Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13:11. Biblical financial growth is slow, tedious work. It is not a get rich quick scheme (Pr 12:11; 21:17; 28:22) • 15:27. We need to watch out for greed – it's idolatry • 22:16. Those who chase get rich quick schemes or prosperity preaching just throw their money away

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Christians spend more \$\$ on chewing gum than missions each year – so we have some work to do in this area of finance
- Prosperity and Poverty may be a sign of:
 - ♦ Diligence or Laziness (Pr 20:13)
 - ♦ God's blessings or testing (Job)
 - ♦ A sign of God's judgment; or
 - ♦ Cause & effect (it rains on the just & unjust - Mat 5:45)
- Every problem we have boils down to a theological issue.
 - ♦ For example, If we have relationship problems, we have violated one or more known biblical principles
 - ♦ The same goes for financial problems. We can find answers to our financial woes in Scripture.
 - ♦ We should always position ourselves to be blessed by living righteously and working diligently

NEXT WEEK: Selected Proverbs on Godly Friendships. Is it appropriate to have "gay" friends?



"I know it's expensive to bring up a kid. Why come to me with your problems?"