### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1. **Proverbs 1:1-19.** Seek Wisdom’s Ways
2. **Proverbs 1:33-3:8.** Learn Wisdom’s Benefits
3. **Proverbs 8:1-9:18.** Listen To Wisdom’s Invitation
4. **Proverbs 10:11; 12; 17; 18; 21; 25; 26; 31.** Guard Your Speech
5. **Proverbs 10:11; 13; 14; 19; 20; 22; 24; 26; 28; 21; 27; 28.** Don’t be a Slacker
6. **Proverbs 3:11; 13; 15; 16; 20; 21; 22; 23; 28; 30.** Financial Responsibility

### 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)
- 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

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| Proverbs 16:16; 22:1-2; 23:4-5; 28:20; 30:7-9 | 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 22:11) 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 |

**7 Things Worth More than Money**

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| 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 Cause & effect (it rains on the just & unjust - Mat 5:45)
  - 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)

**Honor the Lord with Your Resources**

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.
- 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

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