

Money February 26, 2023

## OPENING QUESTION

**What is something that you desire that money cannot buy?**

If I handed you \$300 right now, what would you spend it on?

We live in a culture that highly values money and material wealth; it is seen as the key to happiness, advancement, reducing discomfort, leveling the field, and so much more. The book of Proverbs will help us to see money and its value from God's perspective - a useful tool that can be used well or foolishly, to bear fruit or to sow the seeds of destruction. We want Proverb's counter-cultural wisdom to take root in us, so that we engage with our money in ways that are in step with our abundant and generous God's purposes, and reveal to the world the goodness of His provision.

**READ** Proverbs 11:4,7,28; 19:4, 22:2; 27:24

**Discuss the wisdom in these verses regarding what material riches cannot do for us. Which are surprising? Which are good reminders?**

- Do you disagree with any of these?
- Which of the valuable things in these verses is most important to you? If money will not secure it, how do you go about pursuing it?

**READ** Proverbs 12:9; 15:16,17; 16:16, 17:1; 22:1; 28:6

**Make a list of the things these verses highlight that are "better than" riches or money. Can you think of a time when you experienced the truth of any of these nuggets of wisdom?**

- Would you say that these verses agree with what you hear from culture about money, or that they disagree?

**READ** Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV); 30:8-9; 1 Timothy 6:6-8

**How would you describe contentment?**

- Would you say that you feel content?
- How do these verses shape your understanding of the art of becoming content?

**Practically, what is a small step that you could take this week to live in greater contentment and gratitude in all that God has already given you?**

- Read Proverbs 25:25 – How does trust in the Lord enrich you in the ways that you consider money?

## FROM THE MESSAGE

Dirk shared from Proverbs 30:7-9 Agur's prayer to become an honest man, who relies on the Lord more than his money. Having a healthy view of our finances reminds us that money is a poor source of happiness, a rich source of temptation and ultimately is worthless of ultimate value.

**Read Proverbs 30:7-9. Is it easier to agree with Agur about poverty or riches? Why?**

## DAILY TIME

Proverbs 21  
Proverbs 22  
Proverbs 23  
Proverbs 24  
Proverbs 25  
Luke 12:13-21

As you read each day, consider:  
What do these proverbs show me about God and His character?  
Where do they highlight my need to confess and receive God's forgiveness?  
Where can I ask for help to live out the wisdom I see that I need?

## BloodDrive!

February 27 at Fulton Heights!  
Encounterchurch.org/events

## SIGN UP TO SERVE!

Encounterchurch.org/serve

## NOTES AND QUOTES

Matthew 7:9-11

9Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 6:21

21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

On 1 Timothy 6:6-8: "godliness" seems to be the way that the Hebrew concept of "fear of the LORD" is communicated to the Gentile audience of the New Testament Letters.

"Godliness therefore, refers to a particular way of living that reflects knowing God and being in a close, reverent relationship with him." It is integrally related to a knowledge of God, now specifically the gospel truth of Christ's life, death and resurrection. (Kostenberger, p 500)

- What does our culture tell us is the value of money?
  - Can you think of from where you have absorbed the story that money will make you happy? (tv and movies, advertisements, people, etc)
  - How does this proverb offer different wisdom?
- Agur prays for “daily bread” rather than poverty or riches; how would you identify what in life is “daily bread” for you?

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says that our heart (our desires, longings, and loves – the things that drive our decisions) will be found where our treasure is stored. Dirk closed by saying that we don’t need more of what’s temporary (money), but more of what’s eternal.

- What are the eternal things we can store up?
- Practically, how do we gain more of what’s eternal?

**EXTRA:** Read Proverbs 11:24-25, 14:31, 19:17, 28:22,27

**How would you summarize Proverb’s wisdom on generosity?**

- What motivates this generosity?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to be generous? How could you grow in this area?

## CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for one another, if possible, about the things you have discussed here.

## PRAYER AND CARE

Reminders for the week ahead:

### Proverbs

11: 4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.  
 11: 7When the wicked dies, his hope will perish, and the expectation of wealth perishes too.  
 11: 28Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.  
 19: 4 Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.  
 22: 2 The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all.  
 27: 24for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?

12: 9Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread.  
 15: 16 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.  
 15: 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.  
 16: 16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.  
 17: 1 Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.  
 22: 1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.  
 28: 6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

23:4-5 (NIV) Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.  
 5Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

30: 8Remove far from me falsehood and lying;

### Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things I ask of you;  
 deny them not to me before I die:  
 8Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
 give me neither poverty nor riches;  
 feed me with the food that is needful for me,  
 9lest 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.

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1 Timothy 6: 6But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For 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.

### Proverbs

11: 24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.  
 25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.  
 14: 31Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.  
 19: 17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.  
 28: 22A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.  
 28:27Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.