

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Ble\$\$ed & Wi\$e | Wisdom Creates Wealth

PROVERBS 3:9-10

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

BIG POINT

What does it mean to "honor the Lord with our wealth"?

PROVERBS 11:24-25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Why are we talking about money? Because Jesus talked about it, because it is the #1 stressor for most Americans, and because handling money God's way is a superpower!

Last week we learned 4 money rules that can lead us from stressed to blessed: obedience unlocks blessing, we can't love God and money, wisdom creates wealth, and we reap what we sow. In our 2nd week of this series, with both grace and generosity, we look closer at Rule #3, –wisdom creates wealth.

Notes:

Our primary objective, as Christians, is to honor God with whatever we do and have –including our wealth. Last week we talked about honoring God with the tithe. It is possible to honor Him with the tithe (the first 10%) and fail to honor Him with the rest (our "wealth" being the other 90%).

For many, what blocks us from receiving the promise found in Proverbs 3:9-10 is a lack of obedience to the instruction it also contains. What holds us back is often a lack of knowledge or misplaced devotion (love of money or a consumerism mindset). However, if we are obedient then God wants to bless us and use us to bless others.

Let's look at 4 "Honor Principles" to help bring understanding to how wisdom can create wealth.

Honor Principle 1: Be a great giver.

Proverbs 11:24-25 gives us a glimpse of how God wants us to see and handle wealth –keeping in mind that His wisdom and ways are higher than ours. His economic principles fly in the face of our human understanding of how money works; but, when we practice being great givers, we can expect Him to honor His Word.

Practically, God's financial principles make sense because He can see what we can't. Spiritually, those who only suffer "want" haven't yet walked in Gospel freedom. Freedom includes being free of earthly desires.

PROVERBS 21:17, 20

Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich. ²⁰Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

PROVERBS 10:4

"A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."

PROVERBS 23:4-5

"Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven."

PROVERBS 17:1

"Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife."

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Honor Principle 2: Handle money well & play the long game.

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it. Proverbs 13:11

Both this passage and Proverbs 21:17, 20 give us insight into how to handle money and think long-term. It is important to ask ourselves, "What is driving my financial decisions?" Is it fear or greed; or, are we purposefully trying to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us with?

How do we handle money well? First, we remind ourselves that consumption ≠ wealth. Next, we practice the Biblical principles of: **tithe** → **save** → **budget** → **sow**.

Why?

- Peace in the home.
- Generosity and hospitality.
- Better marriage (financial issues/stress are the biggest drivers for divorce).
- Leave a legacy for your children. We should be leaving the biggest, best legacies around.

Honor Principle 3: Work hard.

Proverbs 10:4 makes it very clear that we are to be diligent, hard workers. Scripture is filled with promptings of this basic principle, along with reminders of how God will honor it.

In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 12:11

Get a job (work). Build a business. Get better –grow your talent and leadership skills.

Honor Principle 4: Keep things in perspective.

A proper perspective keeps our priorities in line.

- **Money doesn't satisfy and it doesn't last** (Proverbs 23:4-5).
What is the line between toil and diligence? Ask yourself, "Am I driving the work or is the work driving me? Can I turn it off and sabbath for 24 hours?"
- **Seek wisdom, not wealth.**
"Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her." Prov 8:10-11
- **Don't elevate wealth over relationships** (Proverbs 17:1).