

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 31

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.*

**Topical Series: Wisdom in Work, Wealth  
and Decisions**

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 13:11

Sermon Date: May 4, 2008

## **Earn your money honestly.**

This week we are going to look at the subject of “earning your money honestly”. This study involves two important subjects that each deserve in depth study—honesty and money! Let's think about money first. Money by itself is neither good or bad, it is simply a medium of exchange. However, money represents a spiritual power in this world which can overwhelm common sense, morality and even religion. Money may be used for the glory of God but often it takes the place of God in people's hearts.

That's why the discussion about honesty in earning money is not as simple as it first appears. We are all vulnerable to a temptations to keep or get what isn't truly ours. Dishonest gain can start in small things and spread corruption to the whole life.

If we have a proper perspective on money, then how we handle it will be much more important to us than how much we get to handle. “The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.” (Proverbs 10:9)

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.  
 The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>Key Text: Proverbs 13:11 NIV</b></p> <p>13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.</p> <p>15:27 A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.</p> <p>20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.</p> <p>21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.</p> <p>21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;</p> <p>27:24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.</p> <p>27:25 When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in,</p> <p>27:26 the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field.</p> <p>27:27 You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you and your family and to nourish your servant girls.</p> <p>28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. This weeks study is focused on earning our money honestly. What are the benefits of honesty? Consider Micah 7:1-20.
5. Why do you think that God's Word promised a reward for honest service by slaves who served unbelieving masters? Consider Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-25.
6. What are some ways you sometimes feel money threatens to become your master instead of your servant? Consider Proverbs 11:28; 23:4-8 and Luke 16:10-13.
7. How would you state the Christian's proper attitude toward money? Write your statement below in one to three sentences. Consider Psalm 23:1; Proverbs 11:28; Matthew 6:24; I Timothy 6:6-10 and Hebrews 13:5.
8. Review again Proverbs 27:23-27, The hope of abundant provision is based upon meeting a certain condition. What condition does the passage give for these blessings?
9. What are some reasons we should measure and report the goods and services we deliver with accuracy and honesty? Consider Leviticus 19:35-37; Deuteronomy 25:13-16
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 13:11**

<sup>13:11</sup> Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

In Luke 18:18-25 we meet a rich young ruler asking Jesus what he can do to inherit eternal life. Since the man trusted his own ability to attain righteousness, Jesus reminded him of the law: “Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.”

The rich young ruler’s reply was “All these I have kept since I was a boy.” Jesus replied that there was still one thing that he lacked. Jesus told him to “Sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Do you know why Jesus told this to the young ruler? Because his love of money dwarfed his love of God. We must continually remind ourselves that God must be not only first in our lives but all in all.

Do you have the proper priorities in life? Can you say with King David, “The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything that I need,” (Psalm 23:1)?

God will make you eternally rich and give you all things if you find all your hope and joy in him. Come to Christ confessing your pitiful helplessness. He will save you and make you a wealthy heir of his Kingdom, filling you with thankfulness.

Revelation 3:17-18

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.*

*Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact [studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com](mailto:studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com)*

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