

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 33

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 11:4

Sermon Date: May 18, 2008

Seek Righteousness more than wealth.

Have you ever heard of R. G. LeTourneau? LeTourneau began his career in obscurity in California, where his first job was transporting earth to level out farmland. His frustration with moving dirt drove him to find a better, more efficient way and in 1922 he built the first all-welded earth mover that was lighter, stronger and less expensive than any other of its time. He went on to producing 70% of all the army's earth-moving machinery during World War II.

LeTourneau became a multi-millionaire but he gave 90% of his profit from his company to God's work and kept only 10% for himself. He said that the money came in faster than he could give it away. He is quoted as saying: "I shovel it out, and God shovels it back, but God has a bigger shovel".

Why does God so richly bless someone like LeTourneau? What was his relationship with God? How should we view God and wealth? Let's study this theme together and learn what Proverbs tells us about having a proper perspective towards God and wealth.

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>Key Text: Proverbs 11:4 NIV 11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.</p> <hr/> <p>10:2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.</p> <p>10:3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.</p> <p>11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.</p> <p>16:8 Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.</p> <p>16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>23:4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.</p> <p>23:5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.</p> <p>28:6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.</p> <p>30:7 "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:</p> <p>30:8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.</p> <p>30:9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD ' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God</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. In Proverbs Study #9—Proverbs 15:8-9 (November 25th), we looked at “righteousness”.
 - a. What is righteousness? Consider Isaiah 11:1-9 and Deut 32:3-4.

 - b. How does one become righteous in God’s sight?

5. Proverbs 11:4 says all of our wealth will be worthless in the end, but that righteousness will deliver us from death into everlasting life. Why then do we work so hard to accumulate wealth?

6. Proverbs 23:4 says: “Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.” How do we balance this verse with such verses as Proverbs 10:4: “Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth”?
 - a. How do we know when we have crossed the line and put working for wealth ahead of seeking righteousness?

7. In I Timothy 6:11, Paul charges Timothy to “pursue righteousness”. How can we pursue righteousness? Consider also Titus 2:12.

8. Read Matthew 6:19-24. What are some ways in which you have treasured worldly possessions too much, or served money more than God? What are some ways in which you could turn your heart more toward God by changing your attitude about wealth?

9. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 11:4

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.

Proverbs 11:4 says: "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Do you the righteousness that delivers from death?

Romans 3:22-24 says: "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

The key is to believe that Jesus died for you and I and ask him into your heart as your Lord and Savior. Once you have made this step, the righteousness of Christ is given to you through faith, so that no one can boast that they have accomplished it on their own.

Then, find a church home where the Bible is taught and where you can have Christian fellowship and grow in your walk with the Lord. This is the path to a form of wealth that lasts forever.

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***

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