

January 14, 2024
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
A Study of Proverbs: S2/Ep. 3 – Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World
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⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷ Do not be **wise** in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹ Honor the LORD with your **wealth**, with the first fruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:5-10 is a spiritual GPS: By entrusting our entire hearts to the Lord, relentlessly chasing His eternal wisdom, and generously honoring Him with our wealth, we locate hidden routes within the map of life that lead us to God's blessing and prosperity.

CHEAT CODE

1. **Avoiding self-righteousness**
2. **Honoring the Lord with Our Wealth**

1. **Avoiding self-righteousness: Vs. 7** Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
 - a. **Are you wise in your own eyes?**
 - b. **Understanding what Self-Righteousness looks like:**
 - i. Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation. – Charles Spurgeon

QUESTION: HOW DO WE WALK IN WISDOM WHILE NOT CONSIDERING OURSELVES WISE?

- iii. **Wise people are easy to recognize.**
 1. **Matthew 11:19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."
 - a. Lack Chaos, Stable Relationship, No Debt, Listeners
 - b. **How do we know if we fear the Lord?**
 - i. Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of **evil**.

1. Einstein #1 Quote “God did not create evil. Just as darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of God. Albert Einstein.”
2. **Honoring the Lord with Our Wealth Vs. 9-10** Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
 - **Prov. 3:9-10** seems to indicate that God is not honored with secondary fruit offerings.
 - The math of generosity will never pencil out.
 - Tithes and offerings are a cheat code to God’s intervention in our personal financial lives.
 - **The Hundredfold Life: Genesis 26** And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

Practical Takeaways:

1. **GET WISDOM: Proverbs 4:7** The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding.
 - a. Einstein #2 Quote Wisdom is not a product, but a lifelong attempt to acquire it.
 2. **Honoring the Lord with Our Wealth:**
 - a. 1. Prioritize tithes and offerings
 - b. Align finance with your values
 - c. Opting for a modest lifestyle and avoiding excessive materialism to maintain a focus on spirituality is indicative of someone prioritizing God in their finances."
 - d. Let our wealth be a testament to our faith.
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SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS TEST:

1. Do you believe that you are generally more virtuous or righteous than the people around you?
2. Do you frequently criticize or judge others for their beliefs, actions, or choices
3. Are you reluctant to admit when you're wrong or have made a mistake, even in small matters?
4. Do you tend to shepherd conversations to your own achievements, good deeds, or moral choices in conversations
5. Are you quick to point out the flaws or shortcomings of others, whether in public or private settings?
6. When faced with criticism or feedback, do you often become defensive rather than considering the possibility that you might be wrong?
7. Do you love being right?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How can we practically apply the idea of trusting in the Lord with all our hearts and not leaning on our own understanding in our daily lives?
2. What are some specific steps we can take to avoid self-righteousness and truly fear the Lord while shunning evil?
3. What does it mean to honor the Lord with our wealth, and how can we start implementing this principle in our financial decisions?
4. Have you ever experienced the concept of tithes and offerings being a "cheat code" to God's intervention in your personal finances? If so, can you share a personal example?

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EXTRA VERSES

[Proverbs 8:11](#) for **wisdom** is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

[Proverbs 28:26](#) Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in **wisdom** are kept safe.