

Your Wealth and God's Will

Proverbs

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 30:7-9

"Two things I ask of you, Lord;
do not refuse me before I die:
Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
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.
Proverbs 22:29, 6:6-11, 26:14-15, 22:13, 24:30-34

Raw intelligence is
knowing THAT

Wisdom is knowing HOW

Tithing will not set you
free from greed.

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Proverbs are snapshots of reality, generally true principles, but not promises.

Tremper Longman, How To Read Proverbs

Proverbs 3:15-16

Wisdom is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.

Better a little with the fear of the Lord
than great wealth with turmoil. (Proverbs 15:16)

Better a small serving of vegetables with love
than a fattened calf with hatred. (15:17)

Better a little with righteousness
than much gain with injustice. (16:8)

Better a dry crust with peace and quiet
than a house full of feasting, with strife. (17:1)

A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (22:1)

Better the poor whose walk is blameless
than the rich whose ways are perverse. (28:6)

The real danger of wealth here is that it can distort our sense of values and priorities and make us blind to and lose out on the better things, which really matter and which truly enrich.

Kenneth Aitken, Proverbs

Unequal weights are an abomination to the Lord,
and false scales are not good. (20:23)

People curse the one who hoards grain,
but they pray God's blessing on the one who is
willing to sell. (11:26)

The name of the Lord is a fortified tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe.

The wealth of the rich is their fortified city;
they imagine it a wall too high to scale
Proverbs 18:10-11

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.”

Mammon means possessions or property. Today we might legitimately translate Mammon as things, money, gain, or success. The god Mammon is left with its pagan name in the Greek text and in most translations in order to remind readers that Mammon is a spiritual force who works with tremendous attracting power to draw us into its orbit and out from under the service of Christ.

Dale Bruner. *Matthew: A Commentary*. Volume 1: *The Christbook, Matthew 1-12* (p. 325)

For untradable things that cannot be exchanged (such as friendship), there is no way to trade them or swap them (you cannot buy a true friend or inner peace). But you can buy things that seem to be around it: proxies. You can buy a dinner in a restaurant for your friends, but there is no way you can buy true friends by doing so; or you can buy a cabin in the mountains and try to find peace there, but you cannot buy peace itself. Ultimately, advertising functions on this principle: They show you something that cannot be traded (a good night's sleep, a happy family at breakfast, or beauty) and offer you a tradeable proxy (an expensive bed, some kind of breakfast cereal, a mountain cabin, or shampoo). And even though we know this is an illusion and that actors and extras play in ads, we still start to desire a better pillow (mine is responsible for my troubled sleep), new yogurts and cereals (the happy family at breakfast), and shampoo (even if the model in the ad has probably never used the particular brand).

Tomas Sedlacek; Economics of Good and Evil

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