

How to Be a Wise Guy

Studies in Proverbs

Taming the Tiger

Introduction to “Wise Money Management” from Proverbs

As the late Buck Owens’ song, “I’ve Got a Tiger by the Tail” implied, there are some things in our lives that can easily control us, rather than us controlling them. Some relationships are like that, and money is like that. In this week’s study in Proverbs we are going to consider how to manage our money, rather than letting our money manage us. God gives us money for some very good purposes, but when we veer away from those purposes, our money can be a curse in our lives. As with all things, the main purpose of our money is to honor God. That doesn’t mean that we must give all our money to the church, but it does mean that every spending decision is a spiritual decision. God also entrusts money to us to

provide for our needs, and the needs of our family. Money buys the food, shelter and clothing that we need, and this comes from the good hand of God. Furthermore, God wants us to use our money to bring blessing to others, both directly and indirectly. When we make it our goal to be in a position to do this, we will keep money in its proper place. If we fail to fulfill these purposes there are some pitfalls that await us. One of these is to regard money as the solution to all of our problems. Another is using money to take advantage of others. Similarly, we can abuse our relationship with money through excessive debt, impulsive spending, or unethical



Using God’s Wisdom to Make Life Work

gain. All of these make us slaves to money. In order to resist this we must know our financial condition well, and then plan productive work that will allow us to use our money according to God’s purposes. Additionally, we must spend less than we make, and be willing to yield to financial accountability. When we do these things, we will be able to “tame the tiger”, and use our money wisely.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Questions for Wise Money Management

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 3:9-10. Of what 2 things is our wealth composed, and what is its purpose (v9)? What is promised if we do this (v10)?	
2. Look at 27:23-27 and 31:18, 21. What is another purpose of our money (27:26-27, 31:18-21)?	
3. From 11:24-25 and 31:20 what else should we do with our money? How is that possible?	

(Continued on Next Page)

“Wise Money Management” Study Questions (cont)

4. Based on 11:4 and 23:4-5, what are some of the limitations of money? From 28:11, what must the wealthy person beware of?

5. Looking at 17:23 and 22:16 what must we not allow our money to lead us to do?

6. According to 22:7, 27:12, 1:19 and 13:11, what are some of the ways that we can abuse or be abused by money?

7. Read 27:23-24. What practice must we adopt if money is to be used as a blessing to us and others? Why is this an important first step?

8. Think about 21:5, 14:23 and 22:29. What do these say we must do to have the money God wants us to have?

9. From 21:17 what will happen to those who love pleasure too much? What principle does this provide for us about “playing” and “working”, and how much we can spend?

10. Using 13:18 what final principle must we adopt if we are to continue to manage our money wisely?

11. Which of the 3 purposes of managing your money wisely do you need to really accept? Practically, how will you begin to take the 4 steps to fulfill these purposes?

Scripture to Remember

“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever....”

Proverbs 27:23-24a (NIV)

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

We're on the web

www.celebrationnet.com

Life Group Questions—Building Bridges to Unbelievers

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What is the biggest bridge you have ever been on? How did that affect you?
2. When you think about building a bridge to someone who doesn't yet know Christ, what do you feel is the first step you need to take on a personal level?
3. Why is it important to “barbecue first” (get to know someone casually) before you “try to convert” them? How can you keep them from feeling like they are your “project”?
4. Identify and discuss some of the other barriers that keep you from personally building bridges to others.
5. Let each person identify someone they are going to try to build a bridge to, and what their first step will be.
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.