



Sunday, January 31, 2021
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Proverbs 3:1-10

It's easy for us as human beings to adopt a mindset of ownership when it comes to our money and possessions. The reasoning is pretty straightforward: our labor, our blood, sweat, and tears, *earned* us the money we receive and thus the possessions and experiences we buy with it. This makes perfect sense so far as it goes, but it is quite a limited perspective. Who gave us our intellect and physical gifts? Who created us with blood in our veins? Who keeps our bodies regulated? In short, who sustains the very lives with which we exert our labor in return for compensation? It is the LORD! This is why Pastor Don made it so clear: one of the most important lessons a Christian must learn is that God owns it all.

So, if God owns it all, what is left to us, then? The Bible still speaks about private property, does it not? Yes, the Bible still has a category for private property, but to understand the Bible's perspective on money, possessions, and generosity, we must first understand that it is stewardship, not ownership. Everything about us—our money and possessions, but also our physical, emotional, intellectual, and social gifts—belongs to Him! This is why the old catechism began by asking “What is our only hope in life and death?” The answer is: “That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.” If our hope is that our very lives do not belong to ourselves, but to God, how much more our possessions!

Context

Most of the book of Proverbs was written (or had its source in) King Solomon. Solomon was described as the wisest person on earth (1 Kings 10:23ff.). The purpose of the proverbs was to be an instruction to the royal line of kings of Israel that succeeded Solomon. Sadly, when Solomon's son, Rehoboam assumed the throne, he did not listen to the counsel of his father (1 Kings 12).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Proverbs 3:1-10

“Trust and Honor”

Trust in the LORD with all your heart

- Command... trust and lean
- Activity... submit to
- Promise... straight paths

Honor the LORD with all your wealth

- Command... use your income
- Activity... first fruits
- Promise... abundant blessing

Trust the LORD with all your heart

Honor the LORD with all your wealth

Giving is not God’s way of raising money.

Giving is God’s way of raising children.

Discuss

- 1) Who is the most generous person you know? What makes them so generous?
- 2) How have you seen God provide for your physical needs in your life?
- 3) How does trusting the Lord lead to honoring Him with our finances?
- 4) What is the greatest obstacle for you when it comes to giving?
- 5) How confident are you that if you give more of your income away that the Lord will continue to provide all that you need?