

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream saying, "Ask what you wish me to give you." Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge God's people— to discern between good & evil.

1. Solomon's request pleased the Ld b/c he did not ask:
2. God gave Solomon great wisdom to make him the wisest man who ever lived (**1 Kings 3:12-13**).
- Solomon wisdom from God has been handed-down to us in the Proverbs & Ecclesiastes.

Use Money to God's Glory	I. <u>GOD'S SOVREIGNTY & MONEY</u> II. <u>A BALANCED VIEW OF MONEY</u> III. <u>GOD CALLS YOU TO BE GENEROUS</u>
--------------------------	---

I. GOD'S SOVREIGNTY & MONEY

A. God is sovereign over whether or not one is poor, has a moderate income, or is wealthy. **Prov 22:2: "The rich & the poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all."**

1. If you are a wealthy unbeliever, you may be tempted to say, "I eared my wealth by my diligence."
 - a. Your intellectual & physical abilities to work are given by God.
 - b. God preserved you from disabling injury which could have ended your career at the onset.
 - c. The wealthy who are proud because they ignore God's sovereignty are an offense to God.
 - 1) Such people are more likely to mistreat the poor. **Prov 17:5 "He who mocks the poor taunts his Maker; He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished."**
 - 2) The wealthy should heed the example of Nebuchadnezzar's chastisement by God.
2. Some are tempted to say, "I earned my wealth from the inheritance of my parents."
 - a. Rather than owing God thanks, perhaps they feel they only need to thank their parents &...
 - b. Wealth passed down from generation to generation is also allowed by God's hand.

B. God is sovereign in giving wealth yet also the ability to truly enjoy it according to **Prov 10:22: "It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, & He adds no sorrow to it."**

1. There are classic modern example of wealth causing sorrow among those who won the lottery.
2. God has given some Christians wisdom how to maintain their wealth, to use if for a wholesome business to support their community, to bless the church, to give an inheritance, & to help others.
 - a. They can enjoy some of the good things of this life because **"He adds no sorrow to it."**
 - b. God blesses those who give Him the glory & the praise for all that they have.

C. → Turn to **Prov 30** as we read about another truly wise man other than Solomon.

D. Knowing God is sovereign over your material welfare, pray for those means to build financial stability:

1. Self-control: **Prov 21:17 "He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; he who loves wine & oil will not become rich."**
2. Diligence & faithfulness: **Prov 10:4 "Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."**
3. Wisdom to avoid burdensome debt: **Prov 22:7 "The rich rules over the poor, & the borrower becomes the lender's slave."**
4. Pray for the contentment: **Prov 23:4-5 "Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens"**
- **Prov 27:20 "Sheol & Abaddon are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied."**

II. A BALANCED VIEW OF MONEY

A. Money itself not the root of evil. Paul said, “**the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil**” (**1 Tim 6:10**).

1. Money can be used for good or for evil. It took money to renovate an old house into this building.
2. How one treats money can reveal something about the nature of his or her heart.
 - a. Money is necessary to live yet, to love & trust in money rather than God is idolatry.
 - b. **Prov 11:4** “**Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. . . (v28) He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.**” – This is especially true for the coming, great day of judgment.

B. Wealth will not bring you ultimate happiness. You can have wealth yet still be miserable:

1. **Prov 15:16** “**Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure & turmoil with it.**” & **Prov 17:1** “**Better is a dry morsel & quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.**”
 - a. Nice possessions will not make you happy if the person you are with makes you miserable.
 - a. Don't marry someone because of appearances or for how much money they have.
 - b. Pursue marriage to someone who fears & loves the Lord above all, especially above self.
2. **Prov 16:8** “**Better is a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.**”

C. Wealth many bring you friends yet the Proverbs warn you to be cautious: **Prov 19:4** “**Wealth adds many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend. . .**” (**v6**) “**Many will seek the favor of a generous man, & every man is a friend to him who gives gifts.**”

1. You may acquire friends by wealth, but beware of those who only want to take from you.
2. **Prov 18:24a** “**A man of too many friends comes to ruin. . .**” This is especially true if your friends only want to take from you.
3. Ask yourself, “What is the quality of my friends if I am in a time of need? Will they be there for me?” **Prov 18:24b** “. . .there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
→ Ultimately, the Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of a “**a friend who sticks closer than ...**”

III. GOD CALLS YOU TO BE GENEROUS -

A. God promises to bless those who are generous to the poor:

1. **Prov 19:17** “**One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, & He will repay him for his good deed.**”
2. **Prov 22:9** “**He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.**”

B. God also promises that He will fight against those who neglect the poor & needy:

1. **Prov 21:13** “**He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself & not be answered.**”
2. **Prov 22:16** “**He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.**” → Their deeds will catch-up to them in this life & the life to come.
3. **Prov 22:22-23** “**Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord will plead their case & take the life of those who rob them.**”
4. **Prov 28:27** “**He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.**”

C. **Prov 29** says that a righteous child of God can be known by their compassion for the poor. **Prov 29:7** “**The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, the wicked does not understand such concern.**”

1. This concern is often connected with some form of assistance. “Will the recipient use it on drugs or alcohol?” or “Is that right for me to promote laziness?”
 - a. **1 Thess 3:10** “**if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**”
 - b. **Prov 30:15** “**The leech has two daughters, ‘Give,’ ‘Give.’**”
2. We often need more information to understand a person's situation.

Conclusion, review, & further application: