

“Worship by the Book: Grace-Fueled Giving”

Sermon Notes

1. God **calls** us to worship (Ps 96; 99; 100)
2. **Benedict:** We receive God’s blessing (Num 6:22-27; 2 Cor 13:14)
3. We **pray** (1 Tim 2:1-8)
4. We **sing** (Eph 5:19; Col 3:15-16)
5. **Read** the Word (1 Tim 4:13)
6. **Preach** the Word (2 Tim 4:1-5)
7. **Confess** the faith (Heb 10:19-25)
8. **Baptism** (Mt 28:18-20)
9. **Lord’s Supper** (1 Cor 11:17-34)
10. **Greet** one another (Rom 16:16)
11. Give and receive **ministry reports** (Acts 14:24-28)
12. Swear **oaths & vows** (2 Cor 1:15-224)

➤ **When gathered for corporate worship by the Book, we engage in cheerful, sacrificial, grace-fueled giving**

**3 steps toward grace-fueled giving...*

1. Ponder the example of those who model it (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

2. View financial stewardship as as less a duty and more a delight (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5)

3. Act on the conviction that God’s supply to you will meet his demand of you (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Next Week: Acts 21:17-26 - “Zealous for the Law”

Community Group Study Questions

October 27th-November 2nd

Getting Started

1. What sort of a model of money management did you observe in the home in which you grew up? Would you say that those who raised you were faithful stewards of the resources they had been given? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper

2. In his classic *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, Randy Alcorn writes: “By global standards, even the poorest Americans are easily in the upper 20 percent of the world’s wealthy. By historical standards, anyone with a house, indoor plumbing, and enough to eat is certainly rich.”¹

Moreover, by biblical standards even the poorest among us are rich. Consider Paul’s words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 or Jesus’ words to his would-be disciple in Luke 9:58.

How ought we (wealthy Christians) position ourselves as we enter into a study on wisdom with regard to financial matters? Do you think there might be any blind spots of which we might want to be aware? Are there unique temptations for folks like us when it comes to studying a topic like this? If what, what are they?

¹Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc: Carol Stream, IL. (1989) p.329.

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:13-15...

3. Proverbs 3:13-15; 8:10-11 and 16:16 all speak to the superior value of wisdom over worldly wealth. Take the time to read each of these passages out loud carefully. Why are these truths so difficult to believe in our culture? How about in your own home or in your own heart? Do you sometimes doubt such truths? If so, when would you say you are most vulnerable to think that way? Explain. On the other hand, are there ways in which you can say that you have proved the wisdom contained in these proverbs? If so, please share with the group.
4. Read Proverbs 30:8b-9. This contains what's sometimes been called the 'golden mean' or the 'middle-class ideal' of biblical wisdom toward money and possessions. However, our North American context here can skew us in our thinking. The middle class of which Agur speaks is defined by the prayer request: "feed me with food that is needful for me". Or as Jesus put it "give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). Does that look like any middle class you know? If we ought to pray (along with Agur) "give me neither poverty nor riches" (30:8) where does that leave us as we seek to determine and faithfully walk out a standard of living that is pleasing to the Lord?

Furthermore, the Proverbs often teach that wealth is something that the Lord bestows on wise people (3:16; 8:18; 22:4; 14:24). In other words...wealth is a gift (and a trust) of the Lord that is designed to bless us and others. So what's the answer here? Can you see a way to hold these teachings of the book of Proverbs in balance with one another? Explain.

5. Proverbs teaches frequently about the wisdom of saving for a rainy day (6:6-8; 13:11, 22; 21:20; 30:24-25). It's also true that the Bible clearly warns about the dangers of hoarding (see especially Luke 12:13-3, but also numerous other places as well). What's the difference between saving, investing, and insuring on the one hand and hoarding, avarice, and being miserly on the other? Do you have a savings account? Investments? Insurance policies of some sort or another? If so, how are you actively seeking to make sure you don't emulate the folly of the rich fool in Luke 12:13-31? If you don't have a savings account, investments, insurance, etc...can you honestly say that you honor the texts in Proverbs that teach the wisdom of saving (as listed above)? What is the difference between exercising faith in God's care over us (Matthew 6:25-34) and slipping into sloth or presumption about it?

6. The testimony of the book of Proverbs (and the rest of the Scriptures) about the priority of giving generously of our resources is unmistakable: 3:9-10; 11:24-26; 14:21; 19:17; 21:13; 22:16; 28:27; 29:7. Many Christians have discovered time and time again the simple principle that you cannot out give God. If you are someone who gives regularly in a financial capacity to the local church, broader Christian mission work, Bible schools, Christian charities, etc. have you found this to be the case? Take some time to reflect on what your journey in this area has been like.

7. Please close your time as a group by praying for another and for our church family as it relates to financial stewardship. Lend special focus to cultivating increasingly joyful and sacrificial giving to the advance of the gospel through our local church.