

# Wealth and Poverty, Debt and Giving

Pastor Paul Springer | *Proverbs for Practical Living* series: Week 2  
June 3, 2018 | Spring Cycle: Week 8 of 10

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

What is your favorite board game and why? What kind of prize do you acquire while winning the game?

### Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Have you had the opportunity to share Christ with anyone, or encourage another brother or sister in Christ this past week? How did that go?

What prayer requests and praises do you have that your LIFE Group can lift up in prayer for you?

### Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week we discussed pride's place at the root of most of our sins. Growing in the Lord is a process. His example of complete perfection is one we strive for, but when we try to go about it without him, not only do we fail, but we tell God that we think we can do a better job with our lives than he can. We often forget that his perfect Spirit dwells within us, and when we rely on that knowledge, pride's stronghold is loosened. Live in complete submission to his Lordship in your life! Prayerfully ask the Lord to expose your prideful habits and thoughts so that you more closely resemble him.

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### This Week's Key Concept:

**Everything we have is the Lord's, but he designed us as stewards of his creation. The question to ask is: How faithful are we being with all he has entrusted to us?**

**Note:** As we discuss this week's sermon and passages of Scripture, consider wealth and poverty in a broader sense, beyond the material implications to their spiritual and relational implications.

### Read Proverbs 3:9-10, 14:31 & 11:24-25

- Q1. What does it look like to honor God with your wealth?
- Q2. What is the importance of giving the Lord the "firstfruits of your produce" and wealth?
- Q3. What riches is the author of Proverbs referring to? How does one grow richer by giving freely?
- Q4. In what ways has God been generous with you and given you the standard to follow?

### Read Proverbs 11:4, 13:8, & 15:16-17

- Q5. Why do you suppose the poor have no ransom for their lives?
- Q6. What is the attitude we are at risk of having, if we do not fear the Lord in regard to our wealth?

### **Read Proverbs 18:11, 23:4-5, & 30:7-9**

Q7. What images of wealth do these passages convey?

Q8. Proverbs 23:4 in the ESV states, “Do not toil to acquire wealth.” What does it mean to “toil” to acquire wealth? What is the danger to your spiritual life if you toil to gain riches?

### **Read Proverbs 10:2-4, 13:11, 21:17, & 22:7**

Q9. Why does the Lord warn us not to be foolish with our time and money? What is the risk?

Q10. How do outreach ministries and missions reach not only a culture’s or community’s basic needs, but their spiritual needs as well?

### **Impact Questions**

Q1. What part of the sermon do you struggle with the most? How do Christ’s teachings inform your knowledge on this subject and, perhaps, help to develop your faith in him?

Q2. In what ways has the Lord blessed you? How has that blessing equipped you to be a blessing to others?

Q3. Read John 10:10. Do you recognize the abundant life Christ makes available to us? Does recognizing this truth help you want to reach out to others who are unaware of the abundant life he offers? If so, seek out ways to reach out more deliberately to your community.

### **What now? (15 minutes)**

Regardless of our socio-economic standing, every Christian is responsible to seek the Lord’s will and calling on their life. God is the Creator of all that we own and use. Whether much or little, we must acknowledge God’s provision in our lives. We are stewards of his creation. As we seek his kingdom and righteousness, we guard against the potential negative effects of wealth on our spiritual lives. Pray that God would show you what levels of acquiring, saving, spending and giving he desires of you. Then pray that you will faithfully obey.

### **Closing Prayer (15 minutes)**

Please pray for the voiced and unvoiced prayer requests of your LIFE Group members. Please lift up our Northwest community as a whole, that the Lord would make us Christ-centered stewards of all the provisions he offers us. Please continue to pray for our issues of pride so we recognize that who we are, what we have, and what we earn are all because of the Lord. Pray for healing in broken and strained relationships, Christ-centered growth in our youth, and for more opportunities to reach out and meet needs within our community.

### **Sermon Notes:**