

Date: December 8, 2019

Advent 2: Spend Less

Text: Proverbs

Title: Money Matters: Consumerism

Big Idea: Money is a blessing when it helps us worship God; a curse when we worship it.

FCF: Consumerism and greed are idolatry.

1. MONEY IS NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING

- *First, wealth is a fitting blessing and a reward for the wise and the righteous:*

Proverbs 10:15, 10:22, 15:6a, 22:4, 24:3-4

- *Second, poverty is a fitting curse for wicked and foolish people—who will, in the end, lose everything...including their wealth:*

Proverbs 11:24b, 11:28a, 13:18, 14:24, 15:6b

- *Finally, money and wealth are merely tools.*

Like all tools, the all-important piece is whether they are used well or poorly. Wealth is a blessing in the hand of wise person, but it's a curse in the hand of a fool.

Proverbs 19:10

2. MONEY IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE SIGN OF GOD'S BLESSING OR FAVOR

Proverbs 10:2a, 22:16

Both wise and foolish people can have wealth. Both hard-working and lazy people can be in poverty. Wealth can come through devious means, and poverty can come through oppression, injustice, or misfortune. So it would be wrong to make an absolute connection between *wealth* and *God's blessing or favor*.

3. [SLIDE] MONEY IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

Proverbs 15:16-17, 16:8, 16:19, 17:1, 19:22, 22:1, 28:6

4. MONEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED

Proverbs 11:4, 11:7, 11:28, 18:11, 23:4-5

- *God Must Be Trusted Over Money:*

Proverbs 10:3, 18:10, 28:25

5. MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO HONOR GOD

Proverbs 3:9-10

So money—as we’ve seen—can be a great blessing. It can even be a reward. However, just like any of God’s good gifts, money can easily become a curse when it’s mishandled and used wrongly.

- *Money should be Earned through Faithful Diligence*
Proverbs 10:4, 13:11, 21:5, 28:22
- *Money Shouldn’t Be Used to Serve Our Appetites:*
Proverbs 21:17, 21:20, 21:25-26, 29:3b
- *Be Careful Not to Get Entangled in Debt*
Proverbs 11:15, 17:18, 22:26, 22:7
- *Money and possessions should be received with contentment*
Proverbs 13:25, 30:7-9

Big Idea:

Money is a blessing when it helps us worship God; a curse when we worship it.

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money [or Mammon]”
(Matthew 6:24)

Explore Your Heart’s Attachment to Money:

You cannot serve two Masters. Christ is a much better master than money.