

Study Guide

Monday, November 2- Friday, November 6

For a change of pace, we will look at a few chapters in Proverbs. Since each chapter of Proverbs is filled with many, often unconnected sayings, we invite you to pray before you begin to read, asking God to draw you to one or two Proverbs that you most need to hear on that particular day. Reflect upon them and allow them to shape your prayers following your scripture reading. You can likely do all of this each day in less than fifteen minutes (though you could easily spend far more time). As we keep with the theme of the sermon, notice which ones may apply to how you handle your finances.

MEMORY VERSE: A generous person will prosper; they who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. –Proverbs 11:25

Monday, November 2- As you read **Proverbs 15**, you'll notice several themes we've studied in this sermon series. One major theme in this chapter is the wise use of our words. We also see the theme of discipline or correction and our need to be teachable. We see the two paths contrasted: wisdom and folly, or righteousness and wickedness. And in verses 16, 17 and 27 we see our theme for this week – contrasting the wise and foolish approaches to money. You might go verse by verse through this chapter and pray each verse. Read aloud our memory verse for the week and pray that God will help you be generous in heart, blessing others. Pray about your commitment to God through Covenant – consider your goals in this area of your life, your likely income for the coming year, and God's will for you.

Tuesday, November 3 – One major theme in today's reading is the plans we make – a fool makes plans without considering God, but the wise commit to God all their ways. What they do is with right motives. They seek to please God. Where do you see this issue of our plans and paths as you read **Proverbs 16**? Pray and invite God to point you toward one or two verses that you most need to hear in this chapter. One of the verses you will want to commit to memory is verse 31! It will come in handy as you grow older! Write down those Proverbs that spoke most clearly to your life situation or the things you wrestle with, and focus your prayers on them.

Wednesday, November 4 – Read Proverbs 17. There are times when Proverbs don't describe how things should be, but how they sometimes are – for example, verse 8. Bribes are regularly condemned in the Bible, which makes this verse a bit perplexing unless it is a statement of how things sometimes work – but even so, we would expect a follow-up line reminding us that those who bribe will perish in the end. This is why we read any given Proverb in the light of the entire book (see v. 23). Study verse 13 – this is a theme repeated in the New Testament. What other verses spoke to you today? Verse 22 is a call for us to have a cheerful disposition for others. Allow certain verses in this chapter to shape your prayer.

Thursday, November 5 – Read Proverbs 18. How have you experienced the truth of verse 12? What does verse 17 teach us about listening to all sides of a story before making a judgment? Verse 21 picks up, once again, the theme of the power of our lips. Which verses in this chapter address the issues you struggle with? Take the time to pray about your financial commitment to the church – how will you honor the Lord with your wealth?

Friday, November 6 – Read Proverbs 19. How has verse 2 been proved true in your life? The comments about poor and rich in this chapter do not describe the way God wishes things to be, but the superficiality of how life often works – verse 17 captures how God wishes us to live. Verse 19 is important – how do you handle your temper? Choose two verses in this chapter you want to focus your prayers upon. Look over your sermon notes and outline from last Sunday and pray for God to help you pursue wisdom in the area of finances.

