**PROVERBS: A GUIDE TO LIFE**

**"Wealth"**

**Proverbs 3:9-10**

1. **Don't put your trust in money...find your security in God**

***Proverbs 11:28, "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."***

***Proverbs 23:4-5, “Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.” (NIV)***

***Proverbs 11:28, "...but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."***

***I Timothy 6:9-10, "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.***

***I Timothy 6:17, "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."***

**II. The method and motive for making money matters**

***Proverbs 10:2, "Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death."***

**"Be careful not to allow the end of philanthropy to justify the means of dishonesty." - Boyd Bailey *Seeking God in the Proverbs***

***Proverbs 22:1, “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."***

**III. Honor the Lord with your wealth**

***Proverbs 3:9, “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.”***

 1. Tithe firstfruits

***Leviticus 27:30, "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord."***

***Malachi 3:10, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."***

***Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."***

"firstfruits" - the first and the best of the harvest...giving God our first and our best.

 2. Leave a God-honoring legacy

**IV. How to increase your wealth**

1. Give out of obedience and not out of abundance.

***Proverbs 3:10, "then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."***

 2. Set up a system for saving

***Proverbs 13:11, "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.***

***Proverbs 21:5, “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”***

 3. Generously give to the needy

***"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." - Proverbs 11:24***

***“Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.” - Proverbs 28:27 (NLT)***

*Matthew Henry (Puritan scholar) - "God will bless you with an increase of that which is for use, not for show, for giving away, not for hoarding. Those who do good with what they have shall have more to do more good with."*

***II Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."***