

Wisdom for Living: Wealth

The book of Proverbs (ESV)

Money is morally neutral...

10:15 - "A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin."

22:7 - "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is slave of the lender."

22:16 - "Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty"

...but we are not:

1. Enough is never enough

27:20 - "Death and destruction are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man."

28:22 - "A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him."

23:4-5 - "Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it (money) it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle towards heaven."

2. We put money in God's place

18:11 - "A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination."

10:15 - "A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin."

30:8-9 - Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

So keep your coins, God wants change

11:7 - "When the wicked dies, his hope will perish; and the expectation of wealth perishes too."

11:4 - "Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death".

3:9-10 - "Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will be bursting with wine."

15:16-17 - "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it."

16:8 - "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.