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## Sermon Text Discussion 4/23/17

Proverbs 10-31 – “Money: A Good Gift But a Bad God” by Drew Hunter

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### Overview

Wealth and poverty is one of the most prominent themes in Proverbs. Wisdom is the unique thing that Proverbs offers us on this topic, and that is what we need most. According to Proverbs, we need wisdom *about* money more than we need more money. Proverbs answers three main questions about money.

- 1) How should we view money?
  - a. Money is good
  - b. Money is not ultimate
  - c. The middle way between two extreme views today
  - d. Money is powerful
- 2) How should we get money?
- 3) How should we use money?

What's more important than money is trusting God, knowing God, enjoying God, receiving from God, thanking God.

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### Quotations

“Wealth is the smallest thing on earth, and the least gift that God has bestowed on mankind.” -Martin Luther

“Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives. It doesn't come out of our altruism or philanthropy—it comes out of the transforming work of Christ in us. This grace is the action; our giving is the reaction. We give because He first gave to us.” -Randy Alcorn

“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.” -Apostle Paul writing to the church in Corinth

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### Understanding & Application

- 1) Explain why this point is a turning point in Proverbs. In what way are Proverbs 1-9 the entryway into the rest of the book? Why is wisdom the supreme value that Proverbs holds up as the highest value?
- 2) Explain the two extreme views prevalent today on money. There's a cultural and “religious” version of each of these. We're all prone to slide more easily into one of these traps, where do you tend to land? Why? What can you do to shore yourself up to be prepared to avoid these pitfalls?
- 3) Do we get wealth from God's blessing or our own hard work?
- 4) Proverbs doesn't give us a prosperity theology or a poverty theology. It gives us a generosity theology. Interact with this statement: God is most honored with our wealth when we are most generous with our wealth.
- 5) How does money take the place of God in your life? Money acts as a surrogate to show us what is most important to us. If someone could see a graph depicting how you spend your money, what would they say is most important to you?
- 6) How do we actually become more generous?