

Content

Right after we learn that our chief battle comes in trusting the Lord wholeheartedly by not leaning on our own understanding, we learn in the text before us today of two areas where this is tested. And so in Proverbs 3:9-12 we will be looking at the fruits of wisdom and we will be exploring this in two key areas. First is stewardship. The text instructs us to honor the Lord with our wealth, with our firstfruits. This is deeper than simply a law on tithing for the Hebrew word for honor is the word for glory. So our wealth, our stewardship is a glory issue. Whose glory are we living for? Whose fame, whose honor, whose reputation are we seeking? The second area is suffering. And suffering in the form of discipline. But discipline is a sign of God's fatherly grace towards us. It is a sign of His love and commitment to our greatest good, or as we have been exploring, our true human flourishing.

Gospel Connections

We will only be gripped by glory to the degree that we are gripped by grace. Paul gave the Corinthian church the motivation for generous giving in his second letter to them. 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 (2 Cor. 8:9). God is not interested in our being moralistic givers, but He is interested in His family reflecting His character of benevolent grace and generosity.

Application and Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from this sermon? Specifically
 - a. What insights did you learn?
 - b. What questions do you have? Are there any areas you don't understand?
 - c. What areas of your life (be specific) do you sense God wants to change as a result of this passage of Scripture?

2. How aware are you of your need for glory? In what ways have you sought glory in your life?

3. How does the use of money indicate priorities? What motivates you to give? What one thing do you think God would say to you about your giving?

