

Sermon Notes — Proverbs 3:9–10

“Our Present. Their Gift.” — Giving & Generosity**

Opening

- Topic: **Worshipping God with our wealth.**
- People have many opinions on giving—especially at Christmas.
- We don’t consult culture; we consult **God’s Word.**
- Reminder: **We believe the Bible is God’s authoritative, trustworthy Word.**

Context

- Proverbs = wisdom from Solomon for everyday life.
- **Proverbs 3:9–10:**
 - *Honor the Lord with your wealth and firstfruits.*
 - *Then God supplies abundantly.*

Main Idea

Giving is worship. Wealth is one of the ways we express trust in God.

1. Worship With Our Wealth

- “Honor” = attribute worth → worship word.

- Wealth = **entire financial world**
(salary, investments, possessions, assets, inheritance, etc.).
- Not about spare change—**holistic stewardship**.

Why We Struggle: Ownership

- Bible teaches: **Everything belongs to God.**
 - Exodus 19:5 — all the earth is God's.
 - Job 41:11 — everything under heaven is His.
 - Haggai 2:8 — silver & gold are His.
 - Deut. 8:17–18 — God gives power to get wealth.
- Our money ≠ ours. **Wealth is God's on loan.**

Illustration: Ownership

- If I give YOU \$45k of MY \$50k → you feel grateful.
- If I take \$5k of YOUR \$50k → you feel robbed.
- Our view of ownership shapes our view of giving.

If God owns it all, we feel grateful for what we keep, not robbed by what He asks for.

2. Firstfruits: Who Gets First?

- Wisdom = choosing what/who we worship.
- **Your first dollars reveal your first love.**
- Firstfruits = God gets the first *and* best.

- Tithe (10%) = baseline **faithfulness**, not generosity.

Enjoying Wealth Isn't Sin

- Ecclesiastes 9 — enjoy food, spouse, work, gladness.
 - Pleasure becomes sin when it becomes **first**.
 - Issue isn't enjoyment—it's **entitlement**.
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3. God Rejects “Lame Leftovers”

- OT: offerings were *public* acts of worship.
- Problem: Israel gave unusable leftovers.
- God wasn't offended by amount but **order**.
- Worship costs us our **first & best**, not last & least.

Common Mistake

- Budget for ourselves → give God leftovers.
- That is not worship; it's **disobedience**.

True worship = God first. We ask not “How much dare I give?” but “How much dare I keep?”

4. The Gospel Motivation

- Before we honored God with wealth, **God honored us with His**.

- Jesus = God's **first and best**, not leftovers.
- Jesus didn't tithe His blood—**He gave all**.
- We give because **He first gave** (1 John).

This is the fuel for generosity.

5. God's Promise

- Proverbs 3:10 — barns filled, vats bursting.
 - Not prosperity gospel → **God gives better treasure than money**.
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6. Response / Next Steps

Proverbs 3:5–8 — Trust God in all your ways.

Next steps:

1. **Don't give at all?** — Start. Give something.
2. **Give sporadically?** — Become consistent.
3. **Give consistently?** — Grow in sacrificial generosity.

Worship includes your wallet.

Everything is His. We give our whole selves in worship.