



Thursday November 5, 2015

What does God want you to do with your money beyond providing for your own needs? The answer is simple: serve others and, through this, glorify him. Proverbs 3:9 teaches, “Honor the Lord with your wealth.” How can we do this? Start by embracing a mind-set of generosity.

Over and over again the Bible commends generosity, “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously,” Psalm 37:21. “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed,” Proverbs 11:24-25. “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously,” 2 Corinthians 9:6.

In fact, Christians are directly instructed to be generous. Paul gives Timothy a clear message to pass on to other believers, “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life,” 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

A biblical attitude toward money is not, “How much can I get?” but, “How much can I give?”

The difference in these thought processes is short-term gain versus long-term investment. Jesus reminds us that no wealth here will last. Stocks crash, money is stolen, houses burn down, clothes wear out. But when you use your money to serve others and glorify God, you’re investing in eternal treasure. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,” Jesus says, “where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal” Matthew 6:19-20.

It’s not that we shouldn’t seek riches at all. Christians are allowed to engage in a lifestyle that includes material possessions. However, our desire to have should

never surpass our desire to give. Pursuit of material goods must take a permanent back seat to generosity. We are able to give freely because we can rest in the knowledge that God will provide for us (perhaps even through the generosity of others).