

October 16 | Sunday
Earn (Gain) All You Can
Read Proverbs 10:1-5



17 | Mon – Economic Status | Read 1 Kings 3:4-14

Do you think God wants you to be rich or poor or somewhere in between? There are many verses in the Bible about money. In Proverbs, poverty is associated with foolish or lazy people and wealth comes to those who are wise and hardworking. Is this too simplistic? Read the story of Solomon in 1 Kings to see if you can figure out where his wealth came from and what God is looking for in a person's attitude.

18 | Tue – Benefits | Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-13; Proverbs 14:23

John Wesley was known as a frugal man and his first rule of money might have surprised some people: *"Gain all you can by honest industry."* He believed that money was *"an excellent gift of God."* What are some of the benefits, besides money, that come from honest work? What good things can you work hard to gain that don't necessarily show up in your bank account?

19 | Wed – The Boss | Read Matthew 6:24

The verse for today contains a warning for all of us. Even in our legitimate efforts to make money, it is important to keep a right perspective. Is money a means to an end for you or has it become an end in itself? How will you know if your focus is becoming unbalanced? Do you have someone in your life that you would give permission to hold you accountable if you stray into cloudy waters when it comes to making money?

20 | Thu – Burnout | Read Proverbs 23:4; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

In your efforts to earn a good living, do you ever find yourself getting burned out? God has a wonderful remedy for you. He gave it to his people several thousands of years ago as they were coming out of 400 years of slavery, where they had worked seven days a week, 365 days a year, their whole lives. Compare Exodus 20:11 and Deuteronomy 5:15 to find at least two reasons for this gift and then pick a day and enjoy it for yourself, guilt free!

21 | Fri – Needs | Read Philippians 4:12-13, 19

No matter how hard you work or how much you earn, there are times when financial reversals come. The apostle Paul experienced this and learned a very important secret. No matter what his situation, he had peace because he was absolutely convinced of the words in verse 19. What do you depend on when difficult times come? What keeps you from "losing it" when your financial plans fall apart?

22 | Sat – Make A Plan | Read Matthew 7:7-11 and 1 John 5:14-15

So, are you working hard to earn all that you can? Do you want to be "rich" (for a good reason, like using it as a means to bless others)? And where will all that money go (to bless others) when it finally gets to you? Making a plan now for distribution later can prevent a hoarding mentality once the money starts rolling in. Jesus encouraged us to ask, seek, and knock. When He knows it is something good, He will absolutely give it to us!