

Investing for Eternity
Solomon's Advice about Money
Fremont Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor H. Powell Dew, Jr.
February 15, 2026

Text: Ecclesiastes 2:4-9

Purpose: Solomon was considered to be the wisest person that ever lived. In his lifetime, he accumulated more wealth than any person that has ever lived. Yet with all his wealth, he still never satisfied his soul, gave him the significance he sought, nor provided the security he wanted. If we properly understand money, we will put kingdom priorities first in our giving.



The new librarian decided that instead of checking out children's books by writing the names of borrowers on the book cards herself, she would have the youngsters sign their own names. She would then tell them they were signing a "Contract" for returning the books on time.

Her first customer was a second grader, who looked surprised to see a new librarian. He brought four books to the desk and shoved them across to the librarian, giving her his name as he always did.

The librarian pushed the books back and told him to sign them out. The boy laboriously printed his name on each book card and then handed them to her with a look of utter disgust.

Notes:

¹ Mickey's Funnies, A Library Funny, Nov. 11, 2025

²Outline from David Jeremiah's Book, Investing for Eternity

Before the librarian could even start her speech he said, scornfully, "That other librarian we had could write."¹

The passage of scripture that I read for you this morning is a commentary on how wealthy and affluent one of the wisest men that ever lived on earth had become. Solomon was blessed when he inherited the position as King over Israel from his father David. David had prepared the kingdom for his son to be able to rule and reign in prosperity and peace. David had stored up for Solomon his wealth in order to be able to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.



During Solomon's lifetime, he wisely governed the affairs of his nation. He had created great fortified cities; he had planted vast orchards and had extensive gardens and pools. There were

numerous servants to meet any need he had and prepare all the food he could ever want. He indulged every whim he ever desired: he drank to excess, built what he wanted, and indulged his physical desires as indicated by his hundreds of wives. He had all the gold a person could ever desire, all the entertainment his heart could long for, and he even accumulated great wisdom and Psalms from around the world. He is what many people aspire to become in their lifetime, especially here in America.

SOLOMON'S WEALTH

- 4.5 tons of gold per year
- 6000 kilos of wheat per day.
- 12,000 kilos of beef per day.
- 4000 kilos of other meats per day.

An illustration of a palace interior with a large hall, a throne, and a man in a red robe sitting on the throne. The scene is richly decorated with gold and red.

If you don't believe it, look and see how many people line up to buy the latest lottery ticket so they too can have great wealth. People are longing for satisfaction, significance, and security and feel they can obtain it with wealth.

Israel was once nothing as a people group. But with the rise of the Davidic kingdom, which included Solomon, they became one of the greatest nations on the earth.



Solomon's acquisition of wealth actually caused the people of Israel (as well as Solomon) to get amnesia and forget what God instructed them to do. After Solomon, the kingdom was divided into two nations and thus began the long journey of decline over the next 400 years where the people of Israel and Judah forgot the promises of God found in Deuteronomy and were reaping the curses of God. They became destitute, defeated, and deported.

God's Reasons for Judgment

- Because of God's blessings, Israel had become rich and prosperous- they became self-sufficient, greedy, corrupt, and unjust = 2 Kings 14:23-28
- They were cruel to and were oppressing the poor, even selling them into slavery
- They also had a hypocritical religion- had turned away from God but still carried on religious traditions and worshiped idols

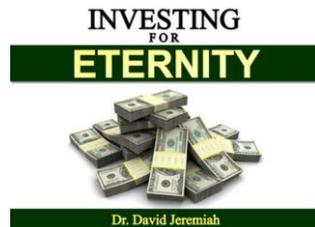
In Deuteronomy, God gave the people of Israel the key to survivorship. They were to remember their neighbor and live in community. They were not to have a king rule and reign over them like the Egyptians. They were supposed to forgive all debts at the end of every six-year period. They were supposed to let the land lay fallow on the seventh year. They were not to oppress their fellow neighbors with interest on loans. They were to give tithes to the work of God so there would be priests in the temple. Yet over time, they insisted upon calling for a King. They failed to let the land lay fallow. They oppressed the poor

and widowed. Under Solomon's leadership, they became globalized and centralized and in doing so, they impoverished the people with excessive taxes. A revolt came after Solomon's death and the kingdom was divided.



It is easy to make the comparison between the global power of Israel under Solomon and America's influence in the world today. Here in America, we are not interested in our neighbor. We oppress the poor and take advantage of the weak. Our banking institutions charge outrageous interest rates on those with the worse credit rating. Through globalization, our nation has been able to exploit smaller countries of their labor because their standard of living is much, much less than it is here in America. This allows us here in America to have more and more while the rest of the world lives on less and less.

The acquisition of things is like a disease. We all are guilty and we all are infected. Admittedly, I am as well. We seek to have more and more money so we can acquire more of the things that we want. It may not always be physical things that we desire. It could be the intangible things that money brings with it. David Jeremiah in his study on *Investing for Eternity*, identifies three illusive intangibles like satisfaction, significance, and security that money brings.



Solomon's advice on money can be advice for us today *if we have ears to listen*. Few things in the Christian life cause more anxiety, stress and disagreements than money. Money is probably

one of the greatest stressors in a marriage. Money, for many people, is representative of who we are. It is life compressed into the currency of the day. Money determines our priorities and demonstrates what we value. We only invest in something if we are interested in it. If you want to dress well, you invest in the latest fashions. If you want to look good, you invest your money at the beauty parlor or plastic surgeon. If you want a nice lawn, you invest in grass seed and fertilizer. If you want a good car, you search out your options, and invest in monthly car payments to keep it. What you value, you invest in.

Solomon was responsible for the *Book of Ecclesiastes* and the *Book of Proverbs*. In these two books, you will find great advice about money. If you don't think Solomon knew much about money, listen to this from 1 Kings 10:14, "*The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was six hundred sixty-six talents of gold.*" That tribute collected from the nations around him amounted to twenty-five tons of Gold. In today's market, that would be equivalent to \$4 Trillion Dollars (gold at \$5,000/oz). That was his money to do with as he pleased. 1 Kings also goes on to say, "*All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the house of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.*"



I believe Solomon can give advice today to those of us that seek to use our money to obtain satisfaction, significance, and security.

Risky Assumptions about Money – Satisfaction²



One of the first risky assumptions we may have about money is that it will bring us satisfaction. Solomon says this in Ecclesiastes 5:10, *“He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance with increase. This also is vanity.”*

If you hunger to have more and more, then getting more will not satisfy or quench that desire to have the latest gadget, model, or style. The problem with trying to find satisfaction in the acquisition of money is summed up by this phrase, ***“Everybody’s yearning power is greater than their earning power.”*** No matter what you have, it will never seem to be enough.

Over and over in Ecclesiastes, Solomon is trying to tell us that the pursuit of satisfaction through money is like trying to hold the wind in your hand. It never can be caught and held in your hand. It is a grasping for the wind. You can never achieve it. If Solomon had this much money, wealth and power said this about money, you can be assured satisfaction cannot be gained by money. Solomon called it all vanity.



Risky Assumptions about Money – Significance

A second area that people feel the abundance of money will help them with is their significance. Have you ever met someone that thought that



if they had enough money or enough property, or enough toys, then they would have enough self esteem and then everyone would respect them? When they are broke or don’t have enough money, then they feel as if others are talking about them and they feel as if they have lost everyone’s respect.

I have met individuals that spend a great deal of energy trying to impress others as to how much they have. What they do have they flaunt in attempts to impress others. I have even met individuals that have rented a vehicle to go to a far away family reunion simply to impress others as to how well they are doing in life.



Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 2:11, *“Then I looked at all the works that my hands had done, and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed, all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.”* He was essentially saying, “I tried to find significance in wealth, but I didn’t find it.”

Risky Assumptions about Money – Security

A third risky assumption about money is that it will buy us security.



Proverbs 23:5 says, *“Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:11 says this about money, *“When goods increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?”* The principle Solomon is talking about is the more we have, the more people we will need to hire in order to take care of it. When you have a large business, you will need more laborers, more accountants, consultants, and more and more to manage it all. The more you make, the more you have to spend. Solomon’s point is, where is the satisfaction and security in that?



Ecclesiastes 6:22 says, *“A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction.”* We can accumulate all of our lives and then look up one day, and it is all gone. What happens to our security then?

Ecclesiastes 5:13-15 says, *“There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun; riches kept by their owner to his hurt. But those riches perish through misfortune; when he begets a son, there is nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came, and he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand.”*

We have all heard it said before, “You will never see a U-haul behind a hearse.” What we do with what God gives us while we are on this earth makes a difference. We need to



understand we will never find security in money. Some people think, “If I can only adjust my portfolio to match the current investment situation, if I just convert my money to gold, if I invest in South African bonds, or if I hide it in a safety deposit box, it will be safe.” If we invest wrong, where will it all be?

Our riches will not provide the security we are longing.

Right Attitudes Towards Money

Those three (satisfaction, significance, and security) are risky assumptions about money. But we can move from them to the right assumptions about money.

Money Is a Gift from God

First, we should look at money as a gift from God. Ecclesiastes 5:19 says, *“As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor – this is a gift from God.”* What ever you have, you need to see it as a gift from God.



Deuteronomy 8:18 reminds us that *“it is God who has given you power to obtain wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”*

God has blessed us with strength to work, a mind to plan, and hands that are industrious. Where did that come from? It came from God!

Money is to Be Enjoyed as a Gift from God



Secondly, Solomon says that money is to be enjoyed as a gift from God. That may surprise us. Ecclesiastes 7:14 says, *“In the day of prosperity be joyful.”* There is a time to enjoy the fruit of our labors. There is a time to spend and enjoy what we have. I am not saying we should go out and spend it all, because we know there will come a day when times are tough. But we can enjoy the blessings of life without feeling guilty.

Have you ever taken time to thank God for the house you live in? How about the simple things in life? Like a warm home, a car that starts, for clothes. We can enjoy our blessings without being proud, boastful, or arrogant.

Paul said in 1 Timothy 6:17, *“Command those that are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.”*



There is a guiding principle that can help us keep this delicate balance in life. On the one hand, earning a living and supporting ourselves and our family, enjoying the fruit of our labor and while at the same time, not becoming obsessed with greed and the acquisition of things. If we remember that God has given us all that we have, then we will recognize we are to be good stewards of that and return a part of that back to God’s kingdom work.

David Jeremiah in his book, *Investing for Eternity*, says the key to staying away from the clutches of materialism is tithing. Solomon said in Proverbs 3:9-10, *“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”*



Tithing into the work of God is the key to overcoming the greed that is consuming our nation today. If we would only become focused upon our neighbors needs instead of our greed, we could transform our nation, communities, and churches. Tithing is the key to a healthy individual, family, church, community, and nation. It all starts with us.

Tithing Perpetuates God’s Program



Tithing perpetuates God’s program here on earth. Malachi 3:10 says, *“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”* The food they are referring to is the support necessary for the Levites and Priests to work and live in the temple. When God’s people tithe, there can be a minister in their midst. When people fail to be obedient to God in this area, the church suffers and in more and more cases across America today, the doors of the church close.

Tithing Reflects Our Priorities

Malachi saw during his day that some of the offerings that people were bringing to the Temple were blemished or inferior animals. He confronted those people in 1:8 when he said, *“And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? says the Lord of hosts.”*

He was confronting them about their inferior gifts. When you tithe, when you give your gift back to God, we should be giving Him our best. We should give to God first. Don't give God the leftovers in your life. How we give reflects our priorities and how important we think God's work is.

Tithing Proves God's Promises

Tithing is also a way God proves his promises to us. Malachi 3:10 says, *“Try me not in this ... if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”* I have seen it in my life over and over. As I have been faithful to God with my tithing, He has blessed me. God keeps his promises and he can prove it to you as well.

Tithing Promotes our Faith

If we commit ourselves to tithing, then we can actually grow in our faith over time. We may look at our income and



GIVE OF YOUR BEST
TO THE MASTER



review our outgo and find we are spending way too much. But if we commit to tithing, it can actually change our attitudes about what we do with the other 90 percent. We become more aware of our money and become better stewards. God has said He would bless us if we are faithful in the area of stewardship. By trusting God in this area of our life, we can grow in our faith.

Tithing Provides our Needs

When we put God first, our 90 percent goes much further than if we kept it all for ourselves. One of our greatest needs is not the accumulation of more and more wealth; it is to live out the days of our lives in harmony with ourselves, our family, our neighbor, and God. Tithing allows our greatest need to be met.



Israel was destroyed because they forgot God and only lived for themselves. They actually consumed themselves until they were no more. America is on a path of self-destruction because of its insatiable appetite of self indulgence. We need to be careful that we as believers do not get sucked down the drain of greed, acquisition of wealth, and self adoration. God's plan for tithing and community living allows us to live and not die.

The more God gives you, the more He has enabled you to give back.

Whom will you serve, God or mammon?

LET US PRAY

