

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: Christ our Hope Summit – February 17th 8:30 – 12:00; Ministry Partners needed for Children, Student, Music, and Host ministries; Golf Tournament for Jordan Mission Team March 18th, \$75 per player.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *Creation* – God created the world and commissioned humanity to “fill the earth and subdue it.” This subduing work means to cultivate and develop its latent potential and wealth for God’s glory.
- The Fall – Man’s rebellion from God led to our abuse of God’s creation, to the seeking of wealth apart from God and looking to it as a source of life rather than God.
- *Sanctification* –As followers of Jesus we experience the fullness of life with God as we learn to live generously like Jesus.

Key Observations

- What was anything that stood out to you about this week’s sermon, or what did you take away?

- *Read:* Proverbs 5:9-10; 6:6-11; 10:2; 13:11; 28:22.
 - What are some of the key ways that the Proverbs instruct us to gain wealth? *The Proverbs are insistent that wealth is gained through faithfulness to one’s family and community, through hard work and diligence, and slowly over a long period of time.*
 - What are some of the ways that wealth is a danger and a snare? *Wealth is a danger primarily when it is “loved.” The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. When it is loved it is sought after hastily, to make a quick buck, violence, oppression, and deceit are used to accumulate it, and ultimately even in acquiring it the person is not satisfied.*

- *Read:* Proverbs 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13; Luke 16:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-8.
 - What do these passages help us understand is one of the purposes of wealth? *God has created the world with incredible potential for wealth, and this wealth is meant for the blessing and enjoyment of humanity and the cultivation of rich and deep relationships. Wealth without wisdom is empty because “money can put food on the table, but not fellowship around it, a house but not a home, and can give a woman jewelry but not the love she really wants (Bruce Waltke).” The wise possession of wealth is meant to be used to deepen our relationships through celebration and joy.*

What are some of the protections God gives to us to keep us from the love of money? *The protections God gives come in the form of warnings and perspective. We are protected from the love of*

- *money when we understand that it can disappear just as quickly as it came to us. We are also protected through being encouraged to rest, and understand that life is more than the accumulation of wealth. Lastly we are told that true and full spiritual freedom is available even to those who have no wealth but only “food and clothing.”*

➤ Read: Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 21:13; 28:8; 1 Timothy 5:8; 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 8:9

- What do the Proverbs teach about the connection between God and the poor? *These passages show us that God identifies with the poor and our treatment and response to the poor says much about how we think of and relate to God.*
- What is the ultimate purpose in the accumulation of wealth? *Throughout the New Testament wealth is viewed as something that is accumulated only for the sake of generosity toward others. First to provide for one’s own household, and secondly to sacrificially give to others in the same manner that Christ, who was rich, became poor for our sakes.*

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week’s sermon, our study together, and listening to God’s Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?

- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?

- Close in Prayer and Read Colossians 2:1-3.