

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 9, v. 27-28

Review Pr 3: 23-26 What does it say? What does it mean? How is it applied? Give an example of how this truth worked itself out in your life last week.

Pr 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do [it.]. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give [it,]" When you have it with you.

In order to withhold something, there is an inference that we have it. Therefore, this is not a question of if we have something to give.

Who is spoken of when we read "those to whom it is due"?

- 1- any debt we might owe, contracts we have, etc.
- 2- the wages owed to those who may work for us
- 3- those in our household that we need to provide for
- 4- those who daily minister to us in leading our church
- 5- those brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need
- 6- those who happen upon our path

Ro 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax [is due;] custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Ga 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Heb 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Mt 25:35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me [something] to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

Ro 12:13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Why would it be important to act “while we have the opportunity”? Have you ever let opportunities to encourage others go by? How do you feel when this happens and you realize you ‘missed the boat’?

Pr 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Jas 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are [just] a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Luke 12:16-21

1Ti 6:17-19 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. [Instruct them] to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1Jo 2:17 And the world is passing away, and [also] its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

We need to remember we are stewards of all the blessings God bestows on us. That means we are to be careful to use what we have to help others. **How do you view the things you have? Do you keep everything to your self?**

Think of what we truly deserve: a future separated from God because of our sin. Yet, in His great mercy, God sent His Son in order that we have eternal life with Him. **Do we show mercy to others in offering what we have? Are you thankful for opportunities to share?**

Jas 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for [their] body, what use is that?

Being a good steward is more than being willing to share; it is taking action. **What does this look like? What things are we able to share?** (Besides physical needs of food, shelter and clothing, think time, energy, kindness, encouragement. John Wesley's notes suggest counsel, comfort and reproof)

We need to go beyond asking ourselves if we can afford to purchase or do something. Even when the answer is yes, we need to look at the future consequence of our decisions. It is good to learn to question how our personal use of resources will affect our ability to serve others either positively or negatively. Then we are able to make better decisions regarding stewardship. **What helps you fulfill the truths in vs. 27-28?**

Why do we sometimes hesitate to act quickly? Can you think of positive reasons to take time to consider what you should do?

"Withhold not good from those to whom it is due (either for want of love to them or through too much love to thy money) when it is in the power of thy hand to do it...Withhold it not; this implies that it is called for and expected, but that the hand is drawn in and the bowels of compassion are shut up. (Matthew Henry's Commentary) He goes on to propose this question: **Are we so consumed by our own comforts and conveniences that we do not have the means to give to those whom it is due?**

Throughout this chapter, we have looked at the many blessings God gives to us, including His care. When we walk in His wisdom and understand that all we have is a gift from Him, we will have an automatic response to be generous to others. **What do you think?**

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 9, v.27-28 – Application Questions

Are you quick and diligent to pay debt you owe? This is an important question – we cannot righteously give if we have not fulfilled our personal obligations. Are those in your household being provided for?

Do you faithfully support the leaders in our church? How do you respond to special needs that are presented within our church body?

Look back through this chapter. How do you view the things you have? Is your fist held tightly closed or is it wide open?

How has this section of scripture affected the way you think?

At Home

Take the time to review verses 27-28, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal application.

****We will not meet next week, April 7th.** Use this extra week to review your memory verses: Prov 3:1-28.

Please be prepared to look at Proverbs 3:29-31 the following week, April 14th. As you read/study, jot down what you discover. Memorize the passage. Use any reference tools you have to look up a few main words in the passage. What questions come to mind that will help you to apply what you read?