

Review:

Lesson 1: The Beginning of Wisdom

Lesson 2: The Purpose of Wisdom

Lesson 3: Surrender, Pt. 1

Lesson 4: Surrender, Pt. 2

Lesson 5: Surrender, Pt. 3

Lesson 6: Two Different Paths

Lesson 7: Wise Discipline

Lesson 8: Wise Nations

Lesson 9: Wise Priorities

Wisdom with Mammon

Proverbs 22:7

Economic power (mammon) is the world's oldest and most insidious power, operating independently of both God and man. Christ followers should engage it with _____ and spiritual awareness.

Discussion 1. Who do you think is living more dangerously from a spiritual perspective: the one who uses money to oppress others or the one who is financially oppressed? Explain your answer.

The spirit of mammon opposes human relationships; borrowing/lending naturally leans towards oppressive _____ which drain our lives from us rather than nurturing our lives.

Discussion 2. Why do you suppose loaning money to someone creates a natural inclination towards "ruling" over them? Is there an automatic tension between forgiveness and the idea of someone "owing" you? Do you think it is reconcilable?

The Spirit of Mammon operates in our lives to make us dependent upon the worldly power of money rather than on God; in this way, it actually _____ what God desires most for us.

Discussion 3. How might our entanglement with debt make us unavailable for some callings God might have in mind for us? Why is this question an important one?

If left to operate on its own, the Spirit of Mammon strips us of our humanity and treats us as property. The more of it we let into our lives, the more of us _____.

Discussion 4. Has there ever been a time in your life when either you or someone very close to you felt "enslaved" as a result of financial debt? Why did it feel like slavery? Did those feelings go away once the debt was resolved? Why or why not?