



## I. REVIEW/INTRO

### A. Priorities – what’s first?

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths**

**Proverbs 3:6 (TLB) In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.**

**To trust in the Lord means to believe that God is smarter than you are ... in EVERYTHING**

### B. The priority to put God first is a heart issue

- There’s a battle for your heart

**Proverbs 3:7-8 (TLB) <sup>7-8</sup> Don’t be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil; when you do that, then you will be given renewed health and vitality.**

## II. HEART ISSUES

### A. Then Solomon gets to the heart of the issue

**Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT) <sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. <sup>10</sup> Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.**

- Do you still believe that- **God is smarter than you are ... in EVERYTHING?**

### B. Why are money and possessions such a big deal to God?

**Matthew 6:21 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Matthew 6:31-32 (NKJV) <sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

- Jesus is saying let me help you recognize a tension in you
  - This tension shows up as worry and fear
  - Who are you going to trust?

**Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged it will cut a channel into which all other thoughts are drained. Arthur Somers Roche**

### C. This is why God wants your heart

- **God wants your heart because it determines your direction and your direction determines your future**



**Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.**

- God wants your heart because it's where beliefs are formed

**Romans 10:10 (NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

D. Either take the thought captive or be held hostage

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

- Think about these things

**Philippians 4:6-8 (NIV) <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**

### **III. GOD WANTS TO BE #1**

- A. God has given us an offer that he will personally be involved in your life
- God doesn't want to be your backup plan
- B. So if I were you and considering 2018
- I'd start with God – put Him first – in everything
  - I'd be careful what I think and what I say