

Proverbs 6:1–11  
Urgency of Stewardship

**Monday, November 25, 2024 • Read Proverbs 6:1–11**

*Questions from the Scripture text: How does v1 address us? What is the concern that we might become? What has happened if we become the surety for either neighbor or stranger (v2)? And what if we do this anyway (v3)? How urgently (v4–5)? Whom does the Scripture muster as a role model in v6? What does it not need (v7)? But what does it do (v8)? How urgently? And yet, what is man tempted to do (v9)? How much of it (v10) can cause what intensity of harm (v11)?*

**What's the big deal with financial folly?** Proverbs 6:1–11 looks forward to the sermon in this week's midweek meeting. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **financial folly must be urgently avoided as something that can destroy a man.**

Again, the Scripture addresses the reader, "my son." We need to be instructed as children. How we need humility! The first five chapters have given much instruction, but more than that, they have urged upon us our need of being instructed in the first place. But this necessary and useful humbling comes with the affection of the possessive pronoun, "my."

There are two things that we fall into easily, and so must resist urgently: becoming surety for someone else (v1–5) and laziness (v6–11). When someone needs to borrow and has nothing of his own to put on the line, putting yourself or your property on the line for them is not neighborly or kind but a trap (v2–3b) from which we need deliverance (v5).

This deliverance is so urgent that we should be willing to humble ourselves (v3c–d) and put extraordinary, sleepless effort into it (v4). When we're considering it as a hypothetical during Bible study, it is easier to take this view. But, when someone in need is urging or pleading, we may be tempted to think that vv3–5 are a bit of an exaggeration. This is why we must humble ourselves and determine in advance to take the biblical view of things.

Similarly, we must have the humility to take the warning about laziness just as seriously. It doesn't get more humbling than to be unfavorably compared to an insect (v6)! The ant needs no commander (v7) to keep it disciplined. The most important discipline is self-discipline. And how important is that discipline! Just a little bit of laziness (v10), and a man can suddenly find himself bankrupt and bound (v11). Whether becoming surety for another, or letting laziness creep in, financial folly traps and binds a man.

Property is an assignment from the Lord, to be enjoyed as from Him and employed as for Him. It is a weakness of our sinful condition that we are prone to disregard it. But true wisdom is to fear the Lord, which means knowing that He is not just the purpose of our property but of our time and our very selves.

What foolish things are you tempted to do with money to appease foolish people? When are you tempted to be a "little" lazy? How does your belonging to God appear in your usage of time? And how, in your usage of wealth?

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for creating us for Yourself, and for giving us possessions by which to enjoy belonging to You and to glorify You. Grant that we would have the humility to take stewardship as seriously as Your Word teaches. For the sake of Him who was rich but became poor for our sakes, supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH538 "Take My Life, and Let It Be"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Proverbs 6, verses 1 through 11. These are God's words. My son, if you become shorty for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, You are snared by the words of your mouth. You are taken by the words of your mouth. So do this, my son and deliver yourself?

For you have come into the hand of your friend go and humble yourself. Plead with your friend. Give no. Sleep to your eyes, nor Slumber to your eyelids. Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter and like a bird from the hand of the Fowler. Go to the end, you've slugged consider her ways and be wise.

Which having no Captain overseer or ruler. Provides her supplies in the summer and gathers her food in the Harvest. How long will you Slumber? Oh, sluggard. Will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little Slumber. A little folding of the hands to sleep. Social your poverty. Come on.

You like a Prowler. And your need. Like an armed, man. Amen, thus ends this reading of Inspired and inert worked.

There are a couple things that These two sections together. So, one is Urgency of the section. And the other is, The content having to do with stewardship. Managing of Our wealth, the resources? That the Lord has given us. The first five verses. teach that it is foolish to be someone's Surety or someone's pledge.

Which means they have come into a situation where Need resources, but don't have them. And they need to borrow. But they don't even have anything that they can put up as collateral for their borrowing. And so they want you to be the one who is the collateral. And if they are unable to pay back in the agreed upon, Way, and time.

Then you have to pay for them and you are on On the hook. For it. Now, if provenance has brought someone low, And you have the resources to help them. Then you can employ them and you can exercise charity there. things that you can do wisely in wisdom and godliness to help them.

But if you don't have the ability to employ them, or the ability to be generous with them, Then you really are not in a position to become shorty for their borrowing. But often people do not merely come into a situation like that by Providence. To come into a situation like that by being foolish with their money.

Or lazy and not working. And so, not only. if Foolish enough to become pledge for them, you join. In their Folly and make their Folly to bind you. Okay, so that's that's the first situation. And it's something that the text is very urgent with us about so that we can be determined against that Folly before the time presents itself.

Because when the occasion presents itself, there will be someone either that you care very much about or That is applying some sort of relational pressure on you and has very difficult to say no. Especially in the face of all of their promises about how they will be. Responsible and their plan that they have for how they will take care of it and, and you'll feel an enormous pressure.

And then our flesh may also if we are inclined towards the person and inclined to do it. And we don't feel like resisting the pressure. Our flesh may say come on. What's the big deal? Well. He says, go humble yourself. Give no sleep to your eyes, nor Slumber to your eyelids deliver yourself, like a gazelle from the hand and like a bird from the hand of the Fowler It's pretty urgent, isn't it?

If the Bible speaks with that intensity, then we should not come and say it's really not such a big deal. You can't make hard and fast rules about stuff like that. We want to be Sensitive to people and differences, nuances, and situations. And All of that word salad of the last several sentences is actually true about various things.

There are lots of situations in which you have to be sensitive to people, and taking the different factors of different situations and And not make a hard and fast rule,

wherever the Bible doesn't, you certainly shouldn't. But when the Bible speaks with this sort of urgency, Then we should not treat it like it's no big deal.

Same thing with laziness Laziness comes from sin, God humiliates, Us by the fact that our sinfulness makes us inferior to ants, At least on this count. the count of industriousness. my wall. Also here teaches us that it's a mercy of God to give us Captain's overseers and rulers.

Because if we lack self-discipline, then it's a mercy to have someone who says you have to start work at this time and you have to end work at this time. And you have to do work all the way through. And, you know, the aunt doesn't need anybody to tell it.

I don't even know if they sleep. But, The ant starts work on time, works the whole time. Well, if they stop working, I mean they gotta eat, right? but the the ant knows what to do. Our sinfulness is the reason. That we need captains overseers or rulers. If we didn't have our sinfulness, we would just need one Authority.

The authority of God. And we with knowledge righteousness and Holiness would perfectly obey him and we'd be perfectly wise and do everything. Well, for his glory and love for him and love for neighbor. one day I think. You know, there are the 24 Thrones. So, there may be Thrones of Of Honor.

But there is that one great Authority in the age to come. That's not where we are though. No, some of you. Remember many occasions reading through Proverbs and asking, How much sleep does it take? How much Slumber? How much folding of the hands to sleep? And at the end of each of those questions, usually the kids, I'll say a little Little a little But again, look at the urgency.

Look at the urgency. So shall your poverty come upon, you like a Prowler and your need like an armed, man. And so we must be careful. Not to justify laziness. Where the scripture teaches us with such urgency. So why is The scripture so urgent to us. Urgent with us about stewardship.

Of time and resources. So, because time and resources are gifts. To be enjoyed from God. And employed for God. They are not ours in a vacuum. They are ours in relation. To the one who has given them to us. And if we use them poorly, if we don't take good care of our things, Sophia, I've heard brothers and sisters explaining to you sometimes.

Even when you say I can destroy it, it's mine. It's not yours by yourself. It's yours as God's creature. It's yours as a Christian girl, who belongs to the Lord Jesus. And so it is to be enjoyed from him. If you gave someone something nice. And they treated it badly.

That would be offensive to you. How could they do that? With the thing that you gave them. Well, God gave us everything. And we must take good care of it. What we have is to be enjoyed as from him, and To be employed. In his service. So that we if we were if we just used everything to please ourselves, Then that wouldn't be Godly either.

I've heard lots of thing, lots of sin and Folly Justified in the name of. Well, doesn't God want me to be happy? He wants you to be happy in him. We just finished talking about that with us when we were thinking about the Sabbath and even the six days, Let alone the seventh.

But if we just used our things to indulge ourselves, then we wouldn't be enjoying them as from God there to be employed in the service and the Imaging of God. So, Even in and we might say, especially in because if something's something that the world does not Take seriously, but the Bible takes it seriously.

Then this can be one of those great points of Distinction. between those who are outside of Christ and those who are in Christ, in what we do with our resources, how we employ, enjoy and employ. Our resources. There is a significant component of our relationship to God.

It's not just in the worship times. It's in the work times and the shopping and banking times. As well. We are exercising. Or Christianity and praise God. He has given us an entire office of the church. Smt? the ant lacks. Captain overseer or ruler, but the Christian Has not only Elder, but Deacon.

And he has one who may help him. To grow. And how he uses resource as well. It would be good. We sought that out and might be good if the elders. asked the deacons to help the congregation in that way and ask the congregation to receive the help.

Of the deacons in that way, so that we could all Joyfully and wisely. Pursue this part of godliness. Well, may the Lord help you. My dear children. Because this is, One area in which our culture is just Haywire. exalting laziness Gladly glad to go into all kinds of crazy debt that they have no good or reasonable hope of managing well wasting resources by the sort of debt.

They go into Trying to work as little as they can get away with. There's a lot. But you need the Holy Spirit to be applying passages like this one to your heart and to your mind to spare you from in the days, in which we live. Let's pray.

Lord, we do pray that you would help us to love you with all our heart soul, mind and strength. And to love you with our time. And to love you with our wealth. Thank you for this passage in which you teach us a little bit about doing that, grant that your spirit.

would indeed apply Christ to us and Apply this portion of your word to us to shape us into the image of Christ into the shape of Christ. And we pray for our new deacons that you have given us that you would bless and strengthen them in their Ministry.

Give them wisdom. For carrying it out. thank you, Lord.

Your work in those men and for bringing them to Hopewell and We pray that. The result would be the increase of the Gospel. This and even other places, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.