L GROUNDWORK

Everything We Have is from God

In a consumer-driven culture, there is often a disparity between those who "have" and those who "have not." Whether we're aware of it or not, our fallen, human nature can easily cause our pride, our feelings, and even our identity to get entangled in this worldly view of wealth. However, when we turn to Scripture, we discover that God offers us a lot of guidance about our finances. Studying what the Bible says about money in both the Old and New Testaments reveals a clear theme: we might own things in this life, but in actuality, we are stewards of God's resources and everything we have is from him. When we begin to view our resources—whether meager or plentiful or somewhere in between—from God's perspective, we begin to relate to our money, finances, and possession in a way that honors God and his design for life.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe your attitude towards money?
- List the things you know the Bible teaches about money and possessions.



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Everything We Have is from God

READ Exodus 20:15-17, Deuteronomy 5:19-21, Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Leviticus 25:23-28, Proverbs 22:9, Ephesians 4:28, Matthew 5:40-42

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Many of the ways that the Heidelberg Catechism describes breaking the 8th commandment are about how we use deception to cheat our neighbor. What sort of deceptive practices could occur in your daily life and work? Are there any practices that you think are deceptive but are considered industry standards? How are they justified?
- In segment one, host Scott Hoezee summarizes the Scripture and the Heidelberg Catechism's teachings, saying, "We have to do things that are helpful for our neighbors so that we can share with our neighbors." When is it easy for you to be helpful and share? When do you find it difficult? Why?
- When the Israelites entered the promised land, where they would provide for themselves, Moses told them to *remember* God. How do you recognize God as the owner and giver of *everything*?
- The Israelites never obeyed God's Year of Jubilee command. Why do you think that is? Why would God give such a problematic command? How can you practice what God intended?
- How would you assess your ability to be financially dependent on God? What are the indicators of holy humility, and what are your areas for growth?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Philippians 4:11-13, Joshua 13-21, John 3:16,

CONCLUSION

Think about the possession or financial holding that you worked hard to attain or that is very important to you, and bring it to God in prayer. Begin by expressing gratitude to God for it; include why you are grateful. Next, petition God for what you continue to need in this area, and ask God to provide for others in the same way. Then, ask God how you might use this thing to help, serve, or bless others. Ask God what he wants you to do with it!

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