

The Soul of a Sower

Proverbs 11:23-27 **23** The desire of the righteous ends only in good, the expectation of the wicked in wrath. **24** One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. **25** Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. **26** The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. **27** Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

- If you have a reference Bible, you will see that our series passage, Second Corinthians 9, cites Proverbs 11 as its reference text, because it is believed that Paul's theology of generosity was based on two primary sources. It was based on the teachings of Jesus, but secondarily on those of Solomon. This is significant because when we consider sources, especially from a biblical perspective, there would be no greater source of knowledge concerning stewardship and generosity than the one who is classified as not only the wisest man to ever live, but also the wealthiest.
- Unlike most modern records, Solomon's status as the wealthiest man to ever live, which is documented in both biblical and secular historical writings, still stands. Even if we put his wealth against that of the wealthiest people in the world today, he would far surpass them collectively.
 - Solomon's annual income in gold alone would be worth \$1.6 Billion today. Which means his wealth is estimated to be worth between \$2 trillion and \$3 trillion in today's currency.
- While Solomon did make occasional references to investments and stewardship, the vast majority of his teachings concerned the condition of the human soul. Why? Because Solomon knew this great reality...
 - **The soul of the sower determines the condition of the seed, and the condition of the seed determines the condition of the harvest.**
- Considering the wisdom of Solomon in our text of focus, here are five principles that should shape our souls today:

1. **Cultivate righteous desires.**
2. **Live with open-handed generosity.**
3. **Become a source of refreshment for others.**
4. **Resist the temptation to hoard.**
5. **Intentionally pursue what is good.**