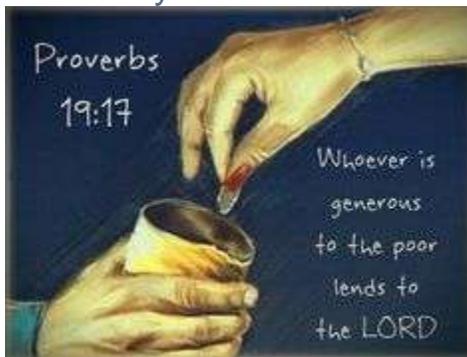


THE LORD'S BANK IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

[Proverbs 19:17](#) "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

A bank accepts deposits from the people of the community at a low rate of interest and then re-loans or invests the money at a much higher rate of interest. The difference between the interest paid the depositors and the rates received on loans is the bank's profit, after deducting expenses. Our banking system is good and by it our nation has prospered and become strong financially. In fact, the word bank has become a symbol for security and safety.



But there is a much, much better system of banking. This bank gives a far greater return for our investment and has the greatest security possible. Should we not investigate and look into this matter?

THE LORD'S BANK IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

1. HE WILL ACCEPT LOANS FROM US.

Our text speaks only to those who hear and read the Word of God, to those who know and trust in their Savior, to those who are washed pure and white in the blood of the Lamb. These are the only people who care to do business with the Lord, and they are the ones with whom the Lord will do business. To such he makes the business proposition in our text, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord."

Love is the first and finest fruit of faith in Christ. Paul makes this clear to us in [1 Cor 13](#), "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor.....and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing." When our text speaks of "pity upon the poor it means that the "pity" must come from true faith and love to the Savior and from genuine love toward one another, otherwise it means nothing and "profiteth nothing." If we believe in Jesus we will have much fruit, for without Him we can "do nothing."

God's children cannot be like the priest and Levite who did not help a poor and dying man. We must have pity upon the poor and needy as did the good Samaritan. Our poorer people of today need not go around begging for help as did the poor of old, for we have arranged to do works of charity through our State and local governments. But there still are areas for us to bestow our love upon the needy because our church has homes for orphans

and the aged and the mentally retarded, and they are supported entirely by our contributions and gifts. We cannot pass by these poor people, we must help them as good Samaritans should.

We cannot really loan anything to the Lord, He has given us everything we have. But the Lord is so pleased with our works of charity that He says in effect, "You have loaned that gift to Me, you and I are doing business together." Jesus said the same thing ([Matt 25](#)), "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Lending to the Lord is the most exciting business in all the world.

Surely we ought to be glad to lend to the Lord at anytime. Is that not a new experience, the Lord is indebted to us, He owes us something? What a unique business! We should have a long line of people waiting at the bank window who are anxious to do the Lord's business.

2. HE WILL REPAY THE LOANS TO US

Our investment is in a safe place where it can never deteriorate or go lost, and the Lord Himself is the Bookkeeper. Our loan is in safe hands and is given a very high and marvelous rate of interest by the Lord of all. Can there ever be a better bank than this one?

When a bank has made a reasonably safe loan to a large and strong corporation, the bank does not press for repayment, for the money would only have to be reloaned again somewhere else. As long as the interest is paid regularly the bank is not anxious for repayment. That is the method of its business.

We should take the same attitude toward the Lord, we are not in a hurry for repayment. He has promised us in our text, "And that which he hath given will he pay him again," but we will never tell the Lord when or how to repay us. We leave it entirely in His hands, perhaps later on, when we are sick or in trouble, if He then wishes to help us in His mercy, we shall be very grateful indeed. The Lord's promise is good enough for us.

In these matters let us heed the advice of Jesus ([Matt 6:33](#)), "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (bodily needs) shall be added unto you." Our chief concern in life is the soul and we want it to be washed pure and white in the blood of Jesus.



Although the Lord has promised us great returns for our deeds of charity, yet the repayment should not be the motive for doing good works. The Lord is only trying to encourage us by promising us so much. The God-pleasing motive for charity is that we thereby show our thanks to Christ for what He has done for us on the cross, good works should flow from our faith. **To do works of love with the thought of returns and self-benefits is wrong and comes from a selfish motive.** We want to follow the footsteps of Jesus in this matter and help the poor and destitute out of an unselfish love. "Love one another" is the Savior's wish. We can never repay the Lord for what He has done for us, but it pleases Him to feel indebted to us when we show love to one another.

What has been said of "pity upon the poor" applies to all our good works which flow from faith and love to our Savior. All our contributions for the church and mission work, etc., have the same values in the eyes of the Holy Trinity as do the works of charity.

We cannot take our treasures with us when we leave this world, but we can send them on ahead. Jesus tells us to do just that ([Matt 6:20](#)), "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." The Lord's bank is always open for business.

We Christians are often foolish to pass up the blessings which the Lord wants to give us. Why are we so anxious to do business with the world, and so reluctant to take up the Lord's work? Why do we not have more love for the poor and for the kingdom of the Lord, especially since He tries to encourage us as He does in our text?

Our lifelong concern should be to make more deposits in the Lord's bank, to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. There are no banking hours in this business, it is always open to us, and it is the world's best banking business. Our guiding thought for life should be the words of Jesus, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" AMEN.

PRAYER. O Holy Trinity, Thy goodness and kindness dost make our cold hearts burn with shame and remorse at our lack of love for our fellowman. Dear Savior, may Thy example of love and mercy be ever before our eyes and hearts. Holy Spirit, change our hearts into one that is filled with trust in our Redeemer, and more love to thee and all the poor who need our help. Hear us for the sake of our only Savior. AMEM.