



Managing Wealth God's Way: Learning to be Faithful Stewards

Sermon Notes for Message #2 of DDM: How to Be Truly Rich (1 Timothy 6:17-19) – Pastor Jeff

- Managing God's wealth demands an understanding of His unique economy. God's economy is full of provision, blessing and warnings about the use and misuse of His riches. In 1 Timothy 6:9, Paul cautions believers that *"those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction"*. Now in verse 17, he continues his warning by telling the Ephesian church not *"to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches"*.
- In this final section (1 Timothy 6:17-19), Paul tells us how to be truly rich.
 - There is nothing wrong with money, it and of itself. It is a neutral commodity without moral value.
 - The issue is one's view of riches and how those riches are used.
 - The gospel is for the haves and the have nots because it is available to anyone who repents and trusts in Christ alone.
 - God is no miser as He provides for the rich and the poor for our enjoyment (v. 17b)
- We can draw out four ways God wants us to be truly rich:
 - ❶ **Guard your heart against the peril of riches** (16:17a: *"not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches"*)
 - God repeatedly reminds us that material wealth cannot be trusted. Scriptures like Proverbs 11:28 tell us *"He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf"* warn us about this as do many others (Ecc. 5:10; Luke 12:19-21; Matt. 19:23-24; Heb. 13:5; Prov. 28:20; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13; James 5:1-5; Rev. 18:19)
 - In verse 17, Paul cites two potential perils:
 - The peril of a false sense of importance (*"not to be conceited"*). Paul uses a military command (*"instruct"* or *"charge"*) to warn us about the ugliness of pride. Riches can tempt you to be proud of what you accumulate or expect to be treated differently or feel entitled to influence or even look down on others. We can't do this because everything we have was given to us by God (1 Cor. 4:7) and God gave us the *"power to make wealth"* (Deut. 8:16-18a)
 - The peril of a false sense of security (*"or fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches"*). When you have money in the bank, you can tend to feel good, safe, and empowered. The only safe place to put your trust is in God Himself who is the Lord of all wealth. Proverbs 11:4 says, *"Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."*
 - ❷ **Glue your hope only to God** (16:17b: *"but on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy."*)

- “To fix” your “hope on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” is the key to all aspects of life. You have limited expectations with “the uncertainty of riches” since it comes and goes, but you have unlimited expectations with God.
- God is a great giver “who richly supplies us”. Be careful never to forget the Giver and get caught up with the gifts.
- God gives us great gifts “to enjoy”. We can overflow with thanksgiving for life itself, for food, clothing, housing, family, friends, material possessions, and the beauty of His creation. Keeping your hope in God keeps from allowing the temporary things of this life to stress you.

③ Give your wealth away (16:18)

- One of the greatest deterrents to putting your hope in wealth to give it away, so Paul mentions two ways we can share our wealth:
 - Give a cashless gift (“do good and be rich in good works”). Paul commands the rich (us) to “be rich in good works” which reverses the values of this world. Too many believers are lower-middle class when it comes to being rich in good deeds. Jesus announced, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
 - ≈ To “do good” is to be extrinsically beneficial and useful for the sake of others (1 Thess. 5:15).
 - ≈ To “be rich in good works” is an abundant display of resources (literal or figurative) that bless others in active service (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:58; Titus 3:8).
 - Give a financial gift (“be generous and ready to share”). Christians should be the most giving people because we serve a generous God. He gave heaven’s best (Christ) for earth’s worst (us) Rom. 8:32. Our gifts are to be:
 - ≈ Generous (2 Cor. 8:2-3, 7; 9:5-6, 8, 10)
 - ≈ Intentional (2 Cor. 9:7)
 - ≈ First in priority (2 Cor. 8:5; Prov. 3:9-10)
 - ≈ Thankful (2 Cor. 9:11-13; from the heart-Ex. 25:1-2; 35:21-22, 29)
 - ≈ Situational (proportionate to what God has given you – 2 Cor. 8:2)

③ Gain your greatest treasure (6:19)

- God teaches us there are two kinds of wealth: being 1) rich now in earthly treasures and 2) being rich then with heavenly treasures.
- Storing up temporary earthly treasures turns out to be a bad investment because it’s all gone at death (1 Tim. 6:7) but storing up eternal heavenly treasures is secured forever (Matt. 6:19-21).
- What is this heavenly treasure? It is “life indeed” (v. 19; v. 12 tells us this life is “eternal life”). One thing money can’t buy is life itself. A smart investor is happy to part with substantial assets provided they get something better in return and “a good foundation for the future” is that ultimate investment.
- Being truly rich is knowing and loving Jesus Christ who has “unfathomable riches” (Eph. 3:8) as “Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him” (Rom. 10:12). 2 Cor. 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”