

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: Excel in Handling Your Wealth; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Thought: Investment gurus are everywhere. If you purchase their newsletters, they will make suggestions as to where to invest your money for the highest return possible. We would all love to be wealthy beyond our dreams.

Finding out if you are wealthy or not is not the subject of these verses. What is, is the consideration of how you handle your wealth. In these verses Paul is challenging Christians to excel at handling their treasures well. We will be challenged today to consider what is our attitude toward our wealth (Is it MINE? Or is it God's?) Second, we will be challenged to consider how we use our wealth. And third, we will be challenged to consider if our wealth management displays more of a terminal mindset or an eternal mindset. In other words, will your wealth be "dead on arrival" in heaven, or will there be joy in heaven because your investments were made with an eternal perspective?

Excel in handling your wealth. Did you know that if you make \$50K a year you are in the top 1% of wealthiest people in the world?

- I) **(6:17) Your wealth fits in one of two categories: Temporal (Mine) or Eternal (God's).**
 - A) A warning concerning the Temporal aspect of wealth.
 - 1) Timothy must **command** (obligate) **rich** (wealthy) Christians to watch their attitude toward their wealth.
 - (a) "**Command**" is an **obligation**. Timothy **obligates** wealthy Christians.
 - (i) "**rich**" has the meaning of **opulence and wealth**.
 - (ii) "**...in this present world**": The idea is that we understand it to be **limited!**
 - 2) Timothy is to warn them of the **snare** of managing wealth with a **selfish mindset**.
 - (a) "...not to be arrogant" or "conceited":
 - (i) The **snare** of haughtiness and pride to the point of looking down on other Christians.
 - (a) A sense of superiority over another.
 - (b) "...not to put their hope in wealth."
 - (i) The dangerous snare is to forget the **uncertainty** of wealth, and to anchor hope in them.
 - (ii) **Wealth** governed **selfishly** is **temporal** with its **benefits limited** to this life!
 - (a) Prov. 11:28: "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall."
 - (b) **Luke 18:18-25**: The Rich Ruler.
 1. Jesus went out of His way to tear down his **self-reliance, self-confidence** and **self-righteousness**.
 - (iii) **A trap!** Remember **1 Tim. 6:10**: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people **eager for money**, have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
 - B) The Blessed **obligation** commanded upon the wealthy: "Put...hope in God..."
 - 1) Instead of putting their hope in wealth, put their hope in God. Why?
 - (a) God is the One who **richly provides**.
 - (i) **Richly**: God's riches are UNLIMITED and certain! Whereas earthly wealth is LIMITED.
 - (a) **Psalm 50:10-12**: God owns everything! "...for the world is Mine, all that is in it!" (v12)
 - (b) **Unlimited**: Power (Jer. 32:17); Wisdom (Rom. 11:33); Love (Eph. 3:18-19) Mercy (Lam. 3:22-23) Provision (Phil. 4:19); Dominion and Rule (Dan. 7:14)
 - (c) He richly provides grace and mercy!
 1. Ephesians 1:7: "...riches of God's grace..."
 2. **Hebrews 4:16**: His throne is throne of grace with grace and mercy pouring forth!
 - a. **God's eternal riches have NO LIMIT** for everyone who trusts in Him!
 - i. Rom. 8:17: "...heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ!"

(ii) **“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”**

(a) Here, we are being prepared for the next verse about **God’s liberality and generosity!**

2) Jesus’ words in **Matt. 6:19-21** are compelling: “...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

II) (6:18) The Measure of Sound Investments of our wealth.

A) Timothy is to **obligate** wealthy Christians to obey 4 commands **within the community** of believers:

1) **Do good** (noble) things for others if it’s in your power to do it.

(a) **James 2:18b**: “Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

2) Be **rich** good deeds

(a) **James 2:15-16**: “Suppose a brother is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well: keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about his physical needs, what **good** is it?’”

3) Be **generous**. This means to go beyond **bare minimums**. Kimber: Extravagant grace!

(a) I’m encouraged by **2 Cor. 9:8**: “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will be able to abound in every good work.

4) Be **willing (ready) to share** with others.

(a) **Acts 4:32**: All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.”

(i) **Western Church**: Usually wealthier. More inclined to give money to aid. Less personal. Less community oriented. Sharing and caring is usually carried out by an organization, with less spiritual connection to individuals and local church communities. ARRGH!

(ii) **Suffering Church**: Usually impoverished. More likely to do Acts 4:32.

(a) **Koinonia** (bonded fellowship). Distinctive personal sharing from person to person and household to household with intentionality in intimate spiritual connections.

B) Tying this back in with 6:18c (God provides everything for our enjoyment.)

1) We reflect God’s liberality and generosity when we give to others liberally without resentment!

III) (6:19) God, who is All-Wealthy, encourages the wealthy Christians with an eternal investment plan.

A) This verse is intended to spur on the wealthy to **invest** their earthly wealth for the good of others.

1) Definitely a verse to aid in their sanctification.

B) How to structure your wealth for the eternal benefit:

1) **In this way**

(a) Obligating themselves to carry out enthusiastically the 4 commands of 6:18.

C) The promise of eternal benefits from using earthly wealth for the good of others.

1) **“...they will lay up (store up with security) treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age...”**

(a) I’m reminded of those Jesus will commend for doing good for those in need in **Matt. 25:37-40**:

(i) “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.’”

D) The promise of earthly benefits that come from investing in the souls of people now.

1) **“...so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”**

(a) That is, by doing so they will not be encumbered by emptiness that accompanies the uncertainty of earthly wealth. It is, in a sense, safely invested in heaven, for God’s use!

IV) Challenges we Christian’s face as the wealthiest 1% in the world.

A) We face the challenge of becoming more comfortable with the things of earth and uncomfortable with leaving these things behind. We become short sighted instead of eternally minded.

B) Friends, your hands are not big enough to lay hold of the world’s wealth and the eternal life to which you were called (6:12).

C) In this life you are called to live a *Coram Deo Semper Fi* kind of life for Christ!

1) C.T. Studd: **“Only one life will soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”**