

Title: Don't Put Your Trust in Riches (But Rather in Christ)

Passage: 1 Timothy 6:17-21

Draft Summary:

I. Traps to Avoid (v.17)

A. Do not be proud.

B. Do not put trust in riches.

II. Duties to Perform (v.18-19)

A. Do good

B. Be Rich in Good Works

C. Be Generous

D. Store up Eternal Treasures

E. Teach these Truths

Application:

I. Recognize the source of the wealth you have.

II. Recognize the goodness of wealth.

III. Recognize that God intends for His people to enjoy His gifts.

IV. Recognize the importance of using my wealth to bless others.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Global Wealth Report

- median worldwide income: \$2,000 per year
- U.S. median household income: \$63,000
- In the U.S., we are rich given we have access to many luxuries:

- Fresh running water through faucet
- Working electricity
- Medical care access regardless of bribe or gifts

Passage:

1 Timothy 6:17-21

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

Context of Passage

1 Timothy 6:15-16

which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

- Today’s passage is an extra writing after this doxology. Why?
 - Highlight the dangers of material possessions
 - End up loving or trusting material possessions rather than God.
- Riches are not bad in themselves unless have the right perspective
 - They are a gift from

Overview

I. Traps to Avoid (v.17)

II. Duties to Perform (v.18-19)

I. TRAPS TO AVOID

1 Timothy 6:17

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

As for the rich in this present age,

- If have more than \$2,000 per annual salary, you have more than most in the world.
- Beware temptation to compare self to certain others who have more.
 - Beware of temptation from Satan that you don't have enough.
 - Beware of temptation of mistaken view of high cost of living is really the cost of high living
 - As long as we have food and clothing, we are more than enough
- This message relates to all of us.
- "Discontent is life's burglar"
 - Already operating at a loss as always want more.

A. Do not be proud.

charge them not to be haughty,

- Riches can make us proud
 - pride = exalted view of self or high view of self-importance
- It is difficult to be wealthy and have a humble spirit.
 - they expect to be treated differently

James 2:1-4

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

B. Do not put trust in riches.

nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Proverbs 11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

- the only certain thing about riches is that they will pass away.
- You work so hard to accumulate stuff that will

Proverbs 23:4-5

Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

Luke 12:16-21

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- Picture of the "American Dream"
 - But God calls a "fool"
- What is not wrong:
 - It is not wrong to be successful (success does not equate greed).
 - It is not wrong building barns (being a good steward to store barns)
- What is wrong: self-centered
 - Words of "I" and "my" used repeatedly.
 - God is absent from his perspective.
- Instead:
 - Realize he is only an instrument from God.
 - God alone provides all that we have.
 - We use our time, talent, and treasures but for God's purposes (not our own)

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

- it is not wrong to enjoy what God has graciously given.
- It is wrong when material possessions become an idol.

When does something become an idol?

- Preoccupies one's thoughts, feelings, and actions.
 - One's use of time is dictated by it.
 - Focus is at expense of attention on God or others
- Question: Are you able to not think of material possessions?

II. DUTIES TO PERFORM

1 Timothy 6:18-19

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

A. Do good

- Act upon what you know.

B. Be Rich in Good Works

- How? Where to start:
 - First: your household
 - Household of God (widows with legitimate needs)
 - Leaders of the church
 - Why? They are on the frontline in preaching the Gospel

C. Be Generous

- Generous = bountiful
- Give the best of what you have.
 - Don't give the leftover or remaining

D. Be Ready to Share

- Meaning = fellowship (koinonia)
- Be counter-cultural that results in a different type of bonding.

D. Store up Eternal Treasures

thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future,

Matthew 6:19-20

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

- We are to give out of a thankful heart of what God has done for us and what He has given.
 - Not "works salvation" - not give towards our salvation. It is reflective of our salvation in Christ.
- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." (Jim Elliot)

so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- God has blessed you not to raise your standard of living but your standard of giving

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

- Do you recognize that you are merely a "middle person"
 - Our material possessions are from God to be used as a test from God.
 - God provides more so He can test you.
- God is the owner of everything. He is the owner of the store.
- Book: The Treasure Principle (Randy Alcorn)

E. Teach these Truths

1 Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.

- It is not about quantity but about your motivation.

APPLICATION

I. Recognize the source of the wealth you have.

- God richly provides us everything we have.

II. Recognize the goodness of wealth.

III. Recognize that God intends for His people to enjoy His gifts.

- Question: Is it my flesh wanting this or me wanting it for God's glory?
- as long as have the right motivation, it's

IV. Recognize the importance of using my wealth to bless others.

- God has placed you in the United States. Why are you here vs. somewhere else?

2 Corinthians 8:14

your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

V. Recognize where true wealth resides.

- It is in Christ.

Ephesians 2:7

so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.