

A Tale of Two Stewardships

1 Timothy 6:17–21

Starts at ~10:55a

Those who are rich are not just those with the most expensive homes and the most extensive lands. To be rich is to have more than the mere essentials of food, clothing, and shelter. In today's terminology, it means to have discretionary dollars. Most Western Christians today fall into that category.

1 Timothy: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Theme: Believers are Commanded to Fix
Their Hope on God, Demonstrated by
Faithful Stewardship of His Provision

Stewardship 1: Enjoy God's Physical Provision

17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:17–19

NASB95

A. Put Off Hope in Riches

17 “Otherwise, you may say in your heart,
‘My power and the strength of my hand made
me this wealth.’ 18 “But you shall remember
the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving
you power to make wealth, that He may
confirm His covenant which He swore to your
fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:17–18

NASB95

24 For riches are not forever, Nor
does a crown endure to all
generations.

Proverbs 27:24

NASB95

5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

Proverbs 23:5

NASB95

B. Put On Hope in God

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

Hebrews 11:25

NASB95

Heart Check:

1. What do you need that God has not richly supplied?
2. If God's supply is sufficient, why do you struggle to enjoy it?

68 You are good and do good; Teach
me Your statutes.

Psalms 119:68

NASB95

38 “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

NASB95

9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9–10

NASB95

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

NASB95

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

2 Corinthians 9:8

NASB95

Augustine wrote in The City of God that “Those who have given liberally of their riches have had great gains to compensate them for light losses.

Acts—Philemon

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19–21

NASB95

11 You will make known to me the
path of life; In Your presence is
fullness of joy; In Your right hand there
are pleasures forever.

Psalms 16:11

NASB95

Stewardship 2: Guard God's Spiritual Provision

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

1 Timothy 6:20–21

NASB95

11 according to the glorious gospel of
the blessed God, with which I have
been entrusted.

1 Timothy 1:11

NASB95

13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

2 Timothy 1:13–14

NASB95

2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

NASB95

To fail to take God's Word seriously, whether by careless interpretation or by careless living, is to fail to take God Himself seriously

1 Timothy: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary

12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Timothy 6:12–14

NASB95

4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

1 Timothy 6:4

NASB95

7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

1 Timothy 4:7

NASB95

4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:4–5

NASB95

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10

NASB95

19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

1 Timothy 1:19

NASB95

16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

1 Timothy 1:16–18

NASB95

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In what areas do you struggle with hope? How do you see that connected to whether you are taking joy in God's provision in your life?
- 2) Paul gives four commands to Timothy: (1) do good, (2) be rich in good works, (3) be generous, and (4) be ready to share. Discuss ways in which you have been encouraged to live out these commands.
- 3) How do we know when we are guarding the truth or just engaging in "worldly and empty chatter"?
- 4) Close the discussion by thanking God for His grace that gives us life indeed in Christ!