

The Abundant Life: In God We Trust

A Message to The Rich (this means us)

1 Timothy 6:17-19

God has been good to us, allowing us incredible wealth compared to most of the world! Be thankful! But the biggest challenge facing rich people like us is that we've lost our ability to recognize we're rich, and, thereby, we tend to be bad at being rich. However, the Bible tells us very plainly how to be good at being rich...

"...the righteous is generous and gives:" Psalm 37:21

"It is well with the man who deals generously..." Psalm 112:5

"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way..."

2 Corinthians 9:11

But There's a Problem: *"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the conversion of the head, the conversion of the heart and the conversion of the purse."* **Martin Luther**

"With some the last part of their nature that ever gets sanctified is their pockets." **Charles Haddon Spurgeon (Baptize a Man's Wallet)**

"I have come that they may have life & have it abundantly." **John 10:10b**

Main Idea: The Abundant Life Is a Generous Life

"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 & 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." **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Two Parts to an Abundant Life for Rich People Like Us

I. The Elements of Our Abundant Life

"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 & ready to share." **1 Timothy 6:17-18**

Wealth Can Be Taken from Us: *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth & rust destroy & where thieves break in & steal."* **Matthew 6:19**

We Will Be Taken from Wealth: *"And he said to them, 'Take care, & be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, & 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 & build larger ones, & there I will store all my grain & 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, & the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'"* **Luke 12:15-20**

"A rich man's wealth is his strong city, & like a high wall in his imagination." **Proverbs 18:11**

Those who trust in God ENJOY both God AND His riches. Those who trust in Riches enjoy NEITHER God NOR His riches.

How to Trust In God Instead: Paul shares elements of the Abundant Life:

- **Generous Living:** Graciously sharing assistance with the community
- **Generous Activity:** Lending a hand to individuals in need.
- **Generous Giving:** The opposite of stingy, reluctant giving
- **Generous Spontaneity:** Preparing to be spontaneously generous.

II. The Motivation for Our Abundant Life

"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." **1 Timothy 6:19**

Myth # 1: God Needs my Money

Myth # 2: The Church Needs My Money

Myth # 3: Giving is an Insurance Policy against Financial Hardship

Truth: Generous Giving is an Investment into an Eternal Portfolio...Jesus

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys & where thieves do not break in & steal." **Matthew 6:20**

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, & the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself & is not rich toward God." **Luke 12:20-21**

"Tut's life was tragic because of an awful truth discovered too late – he couldn't take his treasures with him, William Borden's life was triumphant. Why? Because instead of leaving behind his treasures, he sent them on ahead." **Randy Alcorn**

What does it look like to live the Abundant Life that is the Generous Life?

- **Generous Giving is Priority Giving**
- **Generous Giving is Percentage Giving**
- **Generous Giving is Progressive Giving**

"Without a plan, giving is sporadic at best. You give when you're in the Christmas Spirit or when there's a food drive at the grocery store. It feels generous. And it is. But it doesn't do much to keep you from drifting toward arrogance or hoping in riches." **Andy Stanley**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16**

The Abundant Life starts with Contentment, is all about a Person, and will always be a Generous Life. However, it is impossible to live a truly Abundant Life without a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *How to Be Rich* – Andy Stanley (2013)
- *The Treasure Principle* – Randy Alcorn (2001)
- *The Eternity Portfolio* – Alan Gotthardt (2015)
- *Letters to Timothy, Titus & Philemon* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *NAC: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* – T.D. Lea & H.P. Griffin (1992)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the NT* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary* – John MacArthur (1992)