

FELLOWSHIP NOTES



Part 3: “God’s Promises to the Rich” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
February 14th, 2021

For Further Study – In Fellowship Café

The Treasure Principle – Randy Alcorn

Master Your Money – Ron Blue

Smart Money Smart Kids – Dave Ramsey

Managing God’s Money – Randy Alcorn

Upcoming:

“Freed-Up Financial Living Class” – Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., February 17th – March 31st

Cost: \$10 (for the workbook); Sign up on your Connection Card or call the church office.

“Rich” = having _____.

THE PREMISE: (1 Tim. 6:17-18)

Part 1: Avoid the Pitfalls of Being Rich (1 Tim. 6:17)...

1. The temptation to _____ – aka: _____ (James 2:1-4)
2. The temptation to _____ instead of _____ (Proverbs 23:4-5)

Part 2: Embrace God’s Practices of Being Rich (1 Tim. 6:18)...

1. Doing _____
2. Being rich in _____
3. Being _____
4. Being _____

THE PROMISE: (1 Tim. 6:19)

Today’s earthly riches used God’s way, will not only bless others now, but will _____
_____ in God’s eternal economy, blessing us in return.

THE PRINCIPLE: (1 Tim. 6:19; Luke 12:13-21; Matthew 6:19-21)

You don’t get credit for what you leave behind. You only get credit for what you send on ahead by _____
_____.

Growth Group Notes

Getting Started

Group Discussion: On Sunday morning we saw the pitfalls in 1 Tim. 6:17 of being rich (see front page). Which one of the two pitfalls have you seen more people fall into? (explain).

Group Discussion: Review below the 4 specific practices of the rich listed out in 1 Tim. 6:18. Discuss how you've seen people live these out toward others or give an example of how someone has practiced them toward you.

- 1. Doing what is good** – God wants us to use our money to do genuinely good things that benefit others.
- 2. Being rich in good works** – Being rich in good works means our lives are to be consumed in using our God-given resources to bless others. It's not to be something we occasionally do, but rather it's an ongoing lifestyle, practicing good works is the way we should live all the time.
- 3. Being generous** – the word generous here carries the idea of acting liberally or bountifully with our resources. Godly generosity bends over backwards to use what God has given us to meet the needs of others.
- 4. Being willing to share** – Stinginess is not a mark of a true follower of Christ. God wants us to willingly share with others what He's provided for us in a way that expresses His love toward them.

Digging Deeper

In Matthew 19:16-30 a rich man had come to Jesus seeking the key to life. He had been moral and upright, but he knew something was missing. He asked Jesus, "What do I still lack?" Jesus told him to go sell his possessions, give them to the poor, and follow Him. But instead, the man went away sad because he was very wealthy. In response, Jesus said, "I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Jesus then went on to illustrate his point with a parable. Read Matthew 20:1-16.

In Jesus' day there were no labor organizations or unions. Day laborers were gathered in the town marketplace early in the morning, waiting and hoping to be hired. The average pay for a day's work was a denarius, a Roman coin sufficient to purchase basic necessities. The landowner went to the labor pool to recruit workers at 6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., noon, 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The men hired early in the day would not go to work until they knew how much they would make. The other workers had no contract. They trusted the owner to give them what was right. The owner paid the men in reverse order, so that the 6:00 a.m. group would see how generous he was to those who did not have a contract. The first group of men complained, of course, but what they received was exactly what they had agreed to and this is the first of our principles for life management:

Principle #1. The Principle of Rightful Reward – Rewards for managing and service are granted by God, not gained by man.

We must trust the Lord and rely on His Word and His character. After all, God does not limit Himself to what is just and equal; He gives what is gracious and generous. God will always do what is best for us if we simply obey Him with the right heart attitude.

In applying this principle, we must beware of looking at others. The rich man in Matthew 19 had given up nothing. But the disciples had given up everything. Yet he was still rich and they were now poor. The disciples seemed to believe they had some kind of compensation coming. Peter and the disciples were guilty of watching other people, and that's easy to do. When we get our eyes off the Lord and start watching others, certain symptoms start showing up in our lives. We start to envy them and their possessions. We start to get what Jesus called "an evil eye" that keeps us from seeing anything good in them. We start comparing, coveting or complaining. And ultimately, we experience bitterness toward God. Bitterness robs us of the joy of God's blessings, and we must diligently avoid it at all costs.

Can you give an example of how you have seen others getting their eyes off God and onto others (Or perhaps an example from your own life)?

Principle #2. The Principle of Sacrificial Example – The most significant gifts are often given by the most insignificant givers. Read Mark 12:41-44.

The people coming to the temple that day to give their gifts had given out of their abundance. But the poor little widow gave her all. In one simple act she demonstrated true sacrifice, proven by what she had left over. This little woman demonstrated her wholehearted devotion to God.

What God desires of us as managers is that we live by a philosophy of life that reflects His character. His character is one of servanthood and giving. This character is best portrayed in the story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37. If you're not familiar with it, take a moment and read it.

In this story Jesus reveals three essential philosophies of life:

1. Philosophy #1 – "What's yours is mine." (Represented by the robbers)
2. Philosophy #2 – "What's mine is mine." (Represented by the priest and the Levite)
3. Philosophy #3 – "What's mine is yours." (Represented by the Samaritan)

The Samaritan was of a different race, religion, even a different culture. Yet he lovingly used his own resources to care for the wounded man. His behavior sets an example we are to follow as we live out the Principle of Sacrificial Example. There are people in desperate need today and God uses Christians to help meet those needs. As the Samaritan's actions saved a man's life, we too can be instruments used of God in His work of saving the souls of people, as well as caring for their emotional and physical needs. Here are some specific ways we can practice the philosophy of "What's mine is yours".

1. When our church has a need, give sacrificially to meet it. As a member of Christ's body, your participation is crucial, especially at times of special need. The purpose of the church is to be actively involved on a corporate level in meeting the varied needs of people. When you respond to your church's needs, you are enabling it to continue meeting its God-given purpose in this world. Whether it is for a new building, ministry expansion, or in meeting a specific need, your sacrificial involvement will be a blessing both personally and corporately.
2. When your neighbor has a problem, give sacrificially to solve it. Be a Samaritan by being open to what is going on in the lives of others around you and being responsive to help.

3. When your Christian brothers and sisters have a crisis, give sacrificially to confront it. What we need to realize is that this should be a practice in our lives because the time will come when you will be on the receiving end of a time of crises. Remember, "Give and it will be given unto you."

Give a personal example of one of the above suggested action steps.

Wrapping Up

Pray together, asking God to make our church a church which practices godly generosity to the extent that it gives voice to our gospel witness in this community and beyond.

