



A Generous Life

A Word To The Wealthy (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

By Pastor David Hillis, 02 November 2014

BIG IDEA: Generous people, not rich people, truly know how to truly live. Their secret is found in humility, hope and habit.

1. HUMILITY: Be careful with arrogance (verse 17).

- “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant...” 1 Timothy 6:17a
- *How humble are you with your wealth? How much of it do you attribute as God’s doing, rather than your own?*

2. HOPE: Make sure it is in the right thing (verse 17).

- In 1 Timothy 6:17, Paul warns us to be careful, because it is so easy to put virtually all your trust in your money.
- “Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.” - Proverbs 11:28 (NLT)
- “The rich think of their wealth as a strong defense; they imagine it to be a high wall of safety.” - Proverbs 18:11 (NLT)
- You can put your trust in the money your job provides, and walk into the office tomorrow morning and be handed a notice to go, without warning. You can quit work and retire, your spouse can get an incurable disease, your kid can get into trouble, your marriage can start to disintegrate, and you realize money is a bad place to put your trust! It can do very little.
- *How much hope, trust, do you put in your wealth? If it were virtually all gone tomorrow, how easily might you adjust?*

3. HABIT: Seeing that you are “rich” in good deeds (verse 18).

- “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” - 1 Timothy 6:18
- Part of the purpose of the church is to spur each other on in good deeds and acts of love, Hebrews 10 says.
- *Since you are rich, how rich are you in good deeds?*
- *How willing are you to share? To let someone have and use whatever you have, even if it is valuable to you?*

Generous people know how to live - for an eternity (verse 19).

- When we live these ways - when we are humble, hopeful and habitual in our giving of our lives - that’s when we truly take hold of life.
- God says “live a generous life.” “Be rich in good deeds.” If you do, you will build up your portfolio in such a way that you can even carry it from this life into the next one. Use your wealth or hang onto your wealth here, and you will leave it here when you die. But if you are generous with it, it will follow you, go with you, into eternity.
- The happiest people on earth are those who have learned the joy of generous living.

Questions to consider this week:

1. *How do you see at times the feelings of pride, arrogance or entitlement in your life? How might living more generously help free you from those feelings?*
2. *Pray and ask God to show you what ways, if any, you have put your hope in your wealth rather than God. Clarify for yourself in which ways God wants you to live more generously with your time, talents and treasures from this point forward.*