

BE RICH!
August 23-24, 2008

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. *1 Timothy chapter 6, verses 17-19 (913)*

Rich from God's perspective- *They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 1 Timothy chapter 6, verses 17 (913)*

- ✓ God defines wealth differently than we do.
- ✓ From God's perspective "rich" is not what I earn and keep but what rather what I am given and give away.
- ✓ "Be rich towards God" by being generous with others.

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud "

1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 17 (913)

- ✓ Are you one of the rich from God's perspective?
- ✓ Are you teachable when it comes to your money and possessions?
- ✓ *Acknowledge your blessings as from God.*
- ✓ *Every material and spiritual blessing is from God.*
- ✓ Pride can show itself through discontentment, jealousy, resentment...

Generosity requires humility.

I can never stop thanking God for all the generous gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians chapter 1, verse 4 (789)

Are you happy for others when God is generous with them?

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, 1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 17 (913)

Generosity requires faith.

- *Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*
Matthew chapter 6, verse 21. (737)
- *No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and money.*
Matthew chapter 6, verse 24 (737)
- Give your heart only to God.
- "Sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love more"
- "You are generous because of your faith" *Philemon 1:6*

Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 17 (913)

Generosity requires joy and joy requires generosity.

- Do you enjoy the life God has given you?
- We are convinced that we must own something in order to enjoy life.

- God knows that we must be generous in order to enjoy life.
- People don't start giving when they have more money. People start giving when they have more joy.

They are being tested by many troubles and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

2 Corinthians chapter 8, verse 2 (886)

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 18 (913)

Generous people are rivers not reservoirs.

- *When someone has been given much, much will be required in return;*
Luke chapter 12, verse 48 (795)
- God wants me to be an instrument of generosity.
- Be generous every day!
- Our purpose- *“You are generous because of your faith. And I am praying that you will really put your generosity to work, for in so doing you will come to an understanding of all the good things we can do for Christ.” Philemon chapter 1, verse 6 (919)*

By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. 1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 19 (913)

Generosity has powerful results.

- ❖ Remember this-a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.
2 Corinthians chapter 9, verse 6 (886)
- ❖ Generosity breaks the hold of money in my life.
- ❖ You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.
2 Corinthians chapter 9, verse 13 (886)
- ❖ Your generosity has the potential to change lives.
 - A boy gives his lunch and Jesus feeds 5000- John chapter 6
 - It has at Bethel- 100's have received Christ and been baptized because of your giving.

Further study:

- ❖ Read 2 Corinthians chapter 9 and discover how God is asking you to give.
- ❖ Write down your barriers to generosity.
- ❖ Read Matthew 25:14-30. How does God define the right use of my money?
- ❖ How generous are you? Look back at you spent for the last month and determine how much you have given away.
- ❖ Think about how the generosity of others has impacted your life.

Next Week- Be Committed