

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
**SERMON OUTLINE**  
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**SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

**“HOW TO HANDLE MATERIAL WEALTH”**

**1 Timothy Series: #22**

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

In this final chapter of 1 Timothy Paul is giving to young Timothy the **Final Orders From Headquarters**. This whole final chapter is about the “how to’s” of the Christian life. As Paul brings this powerful epistle of 1 Timothy to a close two thoughts weigh heavy on his mind. **He is concerned with treasures**. He wants to remind Timothy of how believers are to handle **PHYSICAL TREASURE**, the material wealth God has blessed them with (**vv.17-19**) and **SPIRITUAL TREASURE**, the Word of God and the gospel of grace (**vv.20-21**). Today, we will consider *how to handle material wealth* and next week we will conclude with *how to handle spiritual wealth*.

Remember the TV show; “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous” was a popular television show in the 1980’s and early 1990’s. Exotic locations and unapologetically shameless adoration of celebrities were the trademarks of this long running series. Now Paul declared some instructions to the wealthy Christians about their living and their giving. Christians are to use their wealth for **God’s glory** and **men’s good** and not to abuse their wealth to their own hurt.

Lest anyone here think that this passage has no application to them, let me remind you that by the standards of the rest of the world, we are all wealthy people. What’s more, the biblical sense of the word “**rich**” carries the idea of having more than just the necessities of life. As verse 8 says, “**And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.**”

Let’s break down the passage into three bite-sized pieces. In **verse 17**, we will consider the **PERILS of wealth**, then in **verse 18** the **PURPOSES of wealth** and finally in **verse 19** the **PROMISE of wealth**.

**I. THE PERILS OF WEALTH (v.17).**

Paul begins this section with the word “**charge/command**” which means “give strict orders.” What follows are not merely suggestions for Christian living but direct commandments from the “**King of kings and Lord of lords...**” **V-15**. Let’s learn in this verse three PERILS or dangers of wealth:

⇒ **PERIL #-1: Misguided Thoughts.**

The first danger for those of us who have more than we really need has to do with the way we think. Paul says we are commanded not to be “**highminded or haughty.**” “**Haughty**” is an archaic term that means “**proud, arrogant, egotistical, vain.**”

⇒ **PERIL #-2: Misplaced Trust.**

In addition to not being “haughty,” we are commanded not to “trust in uncertain riches” but rather to “trust in the living God.”

⇒ **PERIL #-3: Misused Treasure.**

Don’t miss the last part of **verse 17**. Paul urges us to “trust in the living God”, but notice how he describes God... as the One “who gives us richly all things to **enjoy.**”

God has given us all that we have not for our **enslavement**, but for our **enjoyment**. He does indeed give richly to us! Richly: means “abundantly.”

**II. THE PURPOSE OF WEALTH (v.18).**

In **verse 18** Paul gives us four descriptions of the purpose of wealth:

- ♦ **DESCRIPTION #-1: Do Good.** We are not called just to **be good** but to “**do good.**” This is not merely a state of being but a state of action.
- ♦ **DESCRIPTION #-2: Be Rich in Good Work.** We are to use our money to bless others.
- ♦ **DESCRIPTION #-3: Be Ready to Give.** “Ready to distribute/give” means to be “**liberal**” or “**generous.**”
- ♦ **DESCRIPTION #-4: Be Willing to Share.** “Willing to communicate/share” which is from the Greek word *koinonia*, the common Greek word for “**fellowship.**” In this sense it literally means “to partner with” or “to have things in common.”

**III. THE PROMISE OF WEALTH (v.19).**

When we are not arrogant about what we have, when we trust the Giver instead of the gifts, when we learn to enjoy and to employ our wealth for the glory of God then we receive the promise of **verse 19**, we will be “storing up” for ourselves “a good foundation for the time to come.”

**Generous giving is proof that money is not our god!**

**John Piper** says that there are three levels of how to live with our money and possessions. First, you can **steal to get**. Second, you can **work to get**. Third, you can **work to get in order to give**. Believers are to be rich in their faith and right in their focus. They were to be rich in good works and their readiness to give! They were also to be ready for their future.

**Henry Blackaby** wrote, “In God’s economy, investing in the kingdom produces dividends both now and for eternity. Those who recognize the source of their prosperity will share it generously with others. Those who jealously hoard their possessions demonstrate their ignorance of the eternity they are facing.”