

## Taking Hold of Life That is Truly Life

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (New International Version)

Definition of “rich” : to possess discretionary wealth

### ● TWO DANGERS IN MANAGING YOUR WEALTH

- Letting your wealth make you proud (1 Timothy 6:17a)

“Arrogant” = high-minded = “to have an exalted opinion of oneself”

#### Mini-Seminar on Wealth

- Riches come from God.

*Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.* 1 Chronicles 29:12 (English Standard Version)

*You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth . . .* Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (NIV)

- Every asset a believer possesses belongs to God.

*. . . for the world is mine, and all that is in it.* Psalm 50:12b (NIV)

- A believer’s job is to manage or steward the resources with which God entrusts him or her. (See Matthew 25)

**Test:** Are you grateful to God for any wealth you possess or are you proud of what you have done?

- Trusting your wealth rather than God (1 Timothy 6:17)

*Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. <sup>5</sup>Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.* Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV)

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. <sup>2</sup>In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.* Psalm 127:1-2 (NIV)

*They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the desert? <sup>20</sup>When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly. But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?”* Psalm 78:19-20 (NIV)

**Test:** Has your wealth made you more self-sufficient or more God-sufficient?

### ● TWO DIRECTIVES FOR MANAGING YOUR WEALTH

- Be willing to share the wealth that God has given you. (1 Timothy 6:18)

“Generous” = bountiful; giving in a generous or bountiful way

“Share” = *koinonia* = fellowship = the liberal sharing of what you have for others

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights . . .* James 1:17 (NIV)

- Live in light of God’s “return on investment” principle. (1 Timothy 6:19)

“Return on investment” = the ratio of money gained or lost on an investment relative to the amount of money invested

The principle: When you invest your treasure in light of eternal values, you receive your “return on investment” when you reach heaven.

Our greatest concern about wealth should not be that we won’t have enough; it should be to invest in things that really matter.

*“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ <sup>21</sup>“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”* Luke 12:20-21 (NIV)