

1. Last week I taught in part 1Ti 6:17 by way of the *Doctrine of Wealth*.
2. Before I return to the study of Paul's charge to Timothy, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. Here is an expanded translation of 1Ti 6:17.

Expanded Translation

1Ti 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this Age of the Church, to not be arrogant by putting their trust in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God who richly provides all things for us to enjoy.”

KJV

1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Doctrine of Wealth

1. There is nothing wrong with having wealth. This principle was established early in Scripture as we will see. Certainly, Abraham was wealthy and he fought to maintain his wealth, David was wealthy and he destroyed those who stole from him.
2. Wealthy people are used as examples in the Bible as “godly folk” whom God blesses with wealth.
3. The Bible teaches capitalism and the value of accumulating personal wealth so long as we think properly about that wealth; particularly the source of that wealth. The problem with wealth is not the wealth but the Old Sin Nature which resides in man.
4. God long ago in eternity past recognized mankind's penchant for lust and covetousness, ergo, He established the *Decalogue of Freedom*.
5. The Ten Commandments are designed to protect the freedom of the individual in a nation. Private property rights were certainly established in this Decalogue. Exo 20:15-16

6. First, a little background about what the Bible teaches about economic systems. I want to quote from my *Doctrine of Capitalism*.

“Maximum freedom for the individual is God's optimum and represents a manifestation of the first divine institution, volition. The right of private property and protection of property rights is repeatedly established in Scripture. Exo 22:2; Mat 12:29; 2Th 3:11-12

“Free enterprise then is God's plan for His client nations. A free enterprise system will produce excess and make for maximum resources for charity. God has never sanctioned equality. Even in the perfect environment of the Millennium there is inequality; there are the greatest and the least. Old Testament prophecies of inequality in the Millennium can be found in several places not the least of which is Jer 31:44; Heb 8:11.

7. In heaven there will also be relative rewards. Production will be evaluated and crowns presented; there will be winner and loser believers. 1Co 3:11-15

“Class hatred, jealousy and guilt are the motivations behind equality movements. A free society will always out-perform its tyrannical counterpart. Time has proven this beyond a doubt. The example of government best to provide stability and prosperity to all its citizens is that established by God in the Mosaic Law. Limited government with maximum freedom is God's way. The problem with wealth is not "wealth" but the attitude of the believer towards wealth. We need from time to time to ask ourselves the following two questions.

- Do you know the source of your wealth?
- Do you recognize your responsibility to help the poor?

“Beside Abraham and David, the Bible has provided many other examples of good men who were wealthy. Boaz, a man in the line of Christ, was a wealthy man. God gave Solomon affluence because he chose wisdom over wealth, fame and prosperity. 2Ch 1:11-12

Job had been blessed of the Lord with great wealth and he truly enjoyed that gift. Job 31:25

“This does not mean that all good people are wealthy and all bad people are poor. Christ’s parents were poor, therefore, so also was Christ. Luk 2:22-24

“God curses Eli for not controlling his boys and then prophesies that He (God) will prosper Israel and curse Eli and his family - their curse was in part-no wealth in a wealthy land. 1Sa 2:31-32

“Wealth and riches are promised to the righteous. Psa 112:1-3

“Men are urged to avoid the temptations of a dalliance lest they see their wealth squandered. Pro 5:3-10

“To truly appreciate wealth you have to work for it. Pro 13:11

“Wealth is a gift of God and so also is the power to enjoy it. Ecc 5:19

“At the Second Advent Israel acquires the wealth of the nations. Zec 14:14

“In Scripture the idea of wealth or riches is used in various ways--of things material and things spiritual. Though custody of material wealth may be temporarily given to man, it is God who by virtue of His sovereignty owns ‘the cattle upon a thousand hills.’

“All promotion comes from the Lord. David knew from where his prosperity came. Psa 50:10-12; 75:6-7; 1Ch 29:12-13

“Solomon could see that God often caused it to rain on the just and the unjust. Christ also taught His disciples this same truth. Ecc 7:14-15 and Mat 5:44-45

“According to His riches in glory Christ Jesus has promised to supply all the needs of those who belong to Him. As we have seen, the possession of wealth is not condemned in Scripture; in fact, many great stalwarts of the Bible were wealthy. Some like Job had wealth, lost wealth and regained wealth; Job's experience was used anecdotally to teach us.

Phi 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

“No doubt Job liked prosperity more than poverty. Thomas Merton in his book *Seeds of Contemplation* commented on the predicament of the one who has lost his wealth and become poor. "It is easy enough to tell the poor to accept their poverty as God's will ... but if you want them to believe you--try to share some of their poverty and see if you can accept it as God's will for yourself.

“C.I. Scofield has written of Mat 19:16-23: “The rich young ruler made four mistakes, each of which was met by the Lord with unerring wisdom:

- His mistake about the Person of Christ, thinking Him as only a good teacher, was answered by the inescapable dilemma--either he is God or He is not a good man.
- His mistake about the way of eternal life, supposing it could be earned by works, was met by confronting him with the high demands of a divine law.
- His mistake about himself, thinking he had kept the law, was answered by testing him as to works of righteousness and opening his eyes to his failure.
- And his most tragic mistake was not heeding the final words of Christ, ‘Come and follow me’ ...”

“Jesus castigated avarice as illustrated by one who selfishly wished to build bigger barns to hoard his crops. Luk 12:15-20

“Many who covet wealth have erred from the faith and the rich tend to become high minded. 1Ti 6:9-10, 17”

8. So much for review, now let's begin new material:

9. The deceitfulness of riches can stifle the Word and make it unfruitful.

Mat 13:18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means ...

Mat 13:22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, **but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.**

10. Scripture carefully outlines the dangers associated with affluence.

11. James issued a warning to the wealthy of his day.

Jam 5:1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

Jam 5:2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

Jam 5:3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

Jam 5:4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

12. So what should the attitude of the believer be toward giving.

12.1 Giving is a concept in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

12.2 The wealthy of James' day were probably no wealthier than the majority of believers in the United States of America today. These whom James addresses were not judged for being rich but rather they are rebuked because they had misused their wealth.

12.3 Evidently, those to whom James speaks in James 5:4 had exploited the worker to gain their wealth. **"Behold! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty."**

13. Happiness does not come from material possessions but from metabolized doctrine.

14. Peggy Noonan in her book *Simply Speaking* tells of Oprah Winfrey sadly telling of the many celebrities she knows who have no ability to enjoy life. Ms. Noonan went on to quote Ms. Winfrey "they seek happiness by purchasing more things, each becoming more bizarre."

15. We must remember that wealth is a gift of God.

Deu 8:17 And thou shalt say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

Deu 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is God that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

16. As the Lord taught repeatedly, you can store up treasure on earth but there is no assurance that there will be a tomorrow.

16.1 Wealth can be removed in a heart-beat and there you are standing amidst your once proud kingdom eating the grass of the field.

Dan 4:28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar . . .

Dan 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Dan 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

17. Now for an expanded translation of 1Ti 6:17-18

Expanded Translation

1Ti 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present age of the church not to be conceited nor to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth; but instead to put their trust in God who richly provides all things for us to enjoy;

1Ti 6:18 additionally, urge those who are wealthy to do good, and to be ready to distribute to those less fortunate while also communicating what they know about the source of their wealth.

18. Let's see what further commands Paul has for Timothy.

KJV-New Sentence

1Ti 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

NIV

1Ti 6:19 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. Taking hold on eternal life by establishing a firm foundation leads me to believe I need to teach this verse by way of reviewing my Doctrine of Divine Good.

Doctrine of Divine Good

1. Divine good is production acceptable to God.

2. Divine good is often described in the Scripture by the words "good works."

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