

GENEROSITY

F O R U M

Speaker: Gary Hoag

Date: October 20, 2008

THE RICH AND RICHES IN 1 TIMOTHY: INTRODUCTION

- The Eternity Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Investing Your Money For Ultimate Results by Alan Gotthardt
- A Tale of Three Managers: “The more we understand God’s priorities for His resources and what true riches are, the more we realize that when we give, we are investing ... The Eternity Portfolio is about financial investing, maximum growth investing, really long-term investing and guaranteed investing.”
- My role and ministry: Raising up Stewards to be Rich toward God.
- Doctoral Research: The Rich and their Relationship with Riches in 1 Timothy

Who is Rich?

- www.globalrichlist.com – Our incomes put us on top of the world.
- Income: \$25,000 US = _____ % and \$50,000 US = _____ %
- Are we rich? Some of us may be. Others could be. Most people in America are not.
- Economic indicators paint a bleak picture: negative savings rate, average household credit card debt, recent bailout plan, market meltdown, etc ...
- In the words of Jimmy Stewart when speaking to the bank examiner in *It's a Wonderful Life*, “Frankly, we’re broke.”

Who is Rich according to the New Testament?

- Families born into wealth (cf. the rich young ruler of Luke 18)
- Landowners who employed workers (cf. the vineyard and tenants in Matt 21)
- Tax collectors and related money jobs (cf. Zacchaeus the tax collector of Luke 19)
- Merchants (cf. the merchants of the earth who had become rich in Rev 18)
- “The πλούσιος is the man who supports himself by operating with his capital and is thus freed from the necessity of routine work, particularly manual work.” (Furfey)
- People who earned a living through work each day were not considered “rich”.

Message to those who are not Rich – 1 Tim 6:3-10

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and

constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

- Don't make "getting rich" your goal! (ING "number" commercial, cf. Luke 12)
- Be content with food and clothing.
- Don't be tempted by the lure of riches. It is senseless, hurtful and destructive.
- The love of money is the root of...
- Some, eager for money, have wandered from the faith to serve mammon.

Message for the Man of God – 1 Tim 6:11-16

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

- Flee from this and grasp life! Fight the good fight of faith.
- Aim at godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness

Message to those who are Rich – 1 Tim 6:17-19

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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 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.

- Don't be arrogant
- Don't hope in uncertain riches but in God who richly supplies all things to enjoy
- Do good, be rich in good works, be generous and ready to share
- Store up for yourself a treasure of a sure (guaranteed) foundation for the future
- Take hold, grasp real (certain) life
- Practical Tool: the Stewardship Portfolio

| | Evangelism | Discipleship | Mercy |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Jerusalem | | | |
| Judea / Samaria | | | |
| Ends of the Earth | | | |

Discussion Questions

1. How may the NT understanding of contentment coupled with the teaching to those who are not rich affect your living and your advising?
2. How could the Stewardship Portfolio impact your giving and relationships? How could you use it as a tool for generosity?

www.denverseminary.edu/news/stewardship--resource-development-bibliography-2008/