

Gracious Generosity

November 22, 2020



Open: How would you describe what makes a rich person arrive in the category of being rich?

Read & Discuss: 1 Timothy 6:17–19

1. Paul speaks to those who are “rich in this present age” (v. 17). Why do you think Paul draws attention to “this present age?” Verse 19 speaks about a “good foundation for the future.” How might this relate to Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:19-21? How does the “future age” affect how you look at the “present age”? How would you encourage a new believer to think this way?
2. In verse 17 Paul charges “the rich” not to “be haughty.” What would it look like for us to be haughty in the context of what Paul is addressing here? How can we avoid falling into this trap?
3. Paul also speaks of people setting “their hopes on...riches” (v. 17). How does our wealth become an opportunity for misplaced hope? What makes our riches “uncertain,” as verse 17 describes them? How should this uncertainty change our use of wealth and resources?
4. In verse 17, Paul also says that “God richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” What would you say to someone who says, “I’m the one who worked to earn all this—Not God!”? How do we know the difference between enjoying what God has provided and having an unhealthy focus on our possessions?
5. Can you describe a person you’ve meet who seems to have their hope fully set on God to provide for them? (What led you to that assessment?) How can we ensure that we are keeping our hope rooted in God rather than in the things of this world?
6. Paul told Timothy to charge “the rich in this present age” to “be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.” Brainstorm some ways we can be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.

Apply: Make an action plan to show generosity to someone in need over the coming weeks.

Pray: Pray that God would help us to view our finances in God-honoring ways. Ask God to give us generous hearts and to enable us to follow through on our action plans for generosity.

This Week: To help you prepare to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 5 (pages 19-22) of *Christian Living for Starters*. Then memorize 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

1 Timothy 6:17–19

^[17] As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ^[18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ^[19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (ESV)