

Breaking Free from the Money Trap

Give Strategically

Investing in Eternity

I Timothy 6:17-19

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 4, 2018

In **I Timothy 6:17-19** Paul gives us a very clear financial strategy of things to avoid, things to do with your money, and the biggest reason why.

I. Run from the Biggest Financial Blunders – v. 17

I Timothy 6:17 “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.”

The first thing Paul thumps is something that often goes hand in hand with abundance and that’s pride or arrogance.

A. Don’t Be Haughty Because of What You Have

Don’t think you’re better or smarter than everyone else, because everything you have is a given not a gotten.

Success or wealth can make you overconfident about your own intuition so that you assume that everything you think is spot on.

When that happens some really bad things kick in because you stop being teachable and when that happens you stagnate and stop growing as a person so that you head into decline sooner than others.

B. Don’t Start Trusting in What You Have

The Greek word for ‘trust’ in **v. 17** can also be translated as hope. Paul is saying don’t trust or have future hope in those riches. Riches come and riches go.

V. 17 says they are uncertain riches and uses the Greek word that means unsettled, unreliable, and dependent upon chance.

C. Don’t Think It’s Wrong to Enjoy Some of It Yourself

In that final phrase of **v. 17** Paul says, ‘God gives us all things richly to enjoy.’ He doesn’t say give it all away and he doesn’t say it’s a sin to enjoy some of it yourself.

God’s not against pleasure or enjoyments. He’s against you keeping it all for yourself.

II. Reach for the Biggest Financial Blessings – v. 18

I Timothy 6:18 “Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share”

Unless you get a hold of the phrases ‘ready to give’ and ‘willing to share’ in **v. 18** you won’t be able to give!

The phrase ‘ready to give’ uses the Greek word ‘eumetadotos’ that means to give generously and unselfishly because you’re prepared to do so. That’s what’s missing with some people. They’re willing to give, but haven’t gotten ready or prepared to give.

A. Find Out Where Every Dollar is Going – by Getting On a Budget

Budget is how you spell financial freedom. Start tracking every dollar. It will take some time, but it will be so worth it.

Financial freedom is not determined by how much you make, but by how much you spend!

Proverbs 27:23-24 “Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds; for riches are not forever...”

You’ve got to know your assets and where your money’s going. That means you’ve got to keep good records.

Don’t pass on your financial mess to your kids! Teach your kids how to handle money as soon as they’re old enough to get excited about it.

B. Stop Being Somebody Else’s Slave – by Reducing Debt

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that debt is a sin. It’s not a sin to borrow money, but Proverbs warns us to be careful how often and how much we do that, because the borrower is always a slave to the lender.

Borrow as little as necessary and pay it back as soon you can!

C. Show God How You Trust Him and Not Your Money – by Giving Away at Least 10% of Your Income (Tithe)

Giving away 10% of your income is really a trust issue because the number one reason we don’t give away more isn’t stinginess, but fear!

In **Malachi 3:8-11**, there’s a warning to stop robbing God, a promise that when you obey He’ll pour out a blessing beyond anything you can imagine and a challenge to actually put God to the test all wrapped up in those four little verses.

When you live with a significant ‘grace-gap’ or ‘Gospel-gap’ between how you could be living and how you are living, that’s when you get to see God prove Himself!

III. Rest in the Best Financial Security – The Treasury of God - v. 19

I Timothy 6:19 “Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come...”

If you aren't able to give like you wish because of decisions you've made with your money, then make a decision to take steps to move in a new direction.

1. Start by praying and asking God for courage and humility to do some hard things that might cost you in the short run but bless you in the long run
2. Then sit down and make a plan step by step for how you're going get out of that mess. Most people fail to change because they fail to make any specific plans to change
3. You might ask someone else to walk through this with you; to help you create plan and then to stick to the plan. People here in the church can help you and there's a fantastic class going on called "Financial Peace University."