

Breaking Free from the Money Trap
Give Strategically, Part 2
Investing in Eternity
I Timothy 6:17-19
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 11, 2018

In **I Timothy 6:17-19**, Paul warns us about some of the biggest financial blunders, some of the biggest financial blessings and the best financial security.

I. Biggest Financial Blunders – v. 17

II. Biggest Financial Blessings – v. 18

III. Best Financial Security – God’s Treasury – v. 19

Everybody is looking for financial security, but Paul points us in a direction that few people ever go, including Christians, and that’s outside of this world.

I Timothy 6:19 “Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

To get free from the money trap you have to stop seeing only what money can do in this life and start recognizing what it can do in the next and what it reveals about you right now.

The Greek word for ‘storing up’ in **v. 19** is the root word ‘thesarus’ that means to treasure, and keep something safe and stored away for future use. When you give away your money you’re putting it in a very safe place – God’s treasury.

A. Don’t Just Push Your Giving into the Category of Cost and Loss

Everything you give away to the glory of God is applied to your eternal treasury. It’s not a cost, it’s really good investment because God’s treasury never loses value, it’s never mismanaged, nor has it left investors disappointed.

B. Don’t Ignore the Serious Implications of What Your Giving Reveals about Where Your Soul is Headed

Releasing earthly treasure and sending it on ahead into God’s treasury is an indication that we have experienced eternal life and are living out the implications and fruits of that.

All through this passage Paul reminds us that our souls are at stake. Greed can mess up your eternity and choke out your soul.

I Timothy 6:10 “... some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Be ready to fight against the money trap because our flesh still clings to earthly treasure and all that we think it can do for us.

I Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...”

IV. What Would the Fight of Faith Look Like?

A. Stop Guessing What You’re Giving – Get the Facts

Go home and crunch the numbers and find out what you actually gave away this year. Often what people intend to do and think they’ve done, is often very different than what they’re actually doing.

B. Don’t Just Hope to Give – Lock It In

Set up your giving to be automatic online with a credit card so that you don’t have to remember to give because you’ve already made a choice up front.

Online, automatic giving makes a big statement, because it shows that you’re going to give back to God first, right off the top, instead of waiting to see what’s left.

Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

C. Don’t Set It and Forget It – Plan to Grow

Keep stretching in your giving. If you’re not giving anything, start giving something. If you’re giving something but it’s not a tithe, start moving towards 10%. If you’re already giving 10%, treat it as a floor not a ceiling and stretch to give even more as your income increases.

D. Don’t Fail to Take Care of Your Own Family First

Take care of your church family. As a family we should care for and love each other, but we can’t do that without money.

V. Don’t Expect Financial Principles to Do for You What Only Knowing and Loving Jesus Can Do

Financial principles will never make you a sacrificial, grace giver!

Paul never tried to exhort or teach Christians on any subject in isolation from the person and work of Jesus Christ. He understood that’s the heart-changing, life-altering motive that will keep you living radically for a lifetime!

For example, Paul starts his whole argument on the subject of sacrificial giving in **2 Corinthians 8:9** with the grace of Jesus and wraps it all up with the indescribable gift of Jesus in **2 Corinthians 9:15**.

Financial principles won’t set you free to give. It’s the grace of God that’s found in Jesus Christ!