

Intro: When I travel I look for a church to go to...Years ago dropping Stephanie off in Atlanta:

Andy Stanley: He was preaching on the passage we are looking at this morning...Kidding me: 1/2 of one verse!

1Tim 6:16-17: "As for the rich in this present age..." I thought to myself: (Of course..my first time...money!) NO WAY!!! 1/2?

He did two things: 1. Convinced me you CAN preach on 1/2 of one verse: 2. Convinced me I am rich

Did you know, if you make more than 19k a year...more than average yearly income for the WORLD!

Did you know, if you make 34k a year...You are in the top 1% of income earners...IN THE WORLD!

Illus: I remember the day that became real for me. Traveling through Cuba, visiting pastors. Met a man invited us to home We went on a drive...hour or more to the countryside...Sugar Cane plantations: Worst roads ever. Literally down/up pothole Finally arrived: House of Slabwood, Door locked: Go get key, Windows holes: Why lock door? Leaning in window, looking Looked at his bed...rusty springs...2-3 blankets for a mattress...No electricity...Looked...movement...PIG tied to his bed See his kitchen, bowl, plate, couple spoons and forks...Clothes...2-3 shirts...one or two pants...Dresses wife

Thought: I am rich! There will never be a day I will wake up with a pig tied to my bed: I'm rich!

Today I want to talk with you about what the Bible says to us about...how we (rich) are to use our money! Look with me
1 Tim 6:17-19

1. Four Attitudes Paul Says Are Important.

Vs 17

- Don't be arrogant or prideful: **Haughty:** Lit = Compound word: *to be high minded!*
Illus: At West Marine, Clerk telling story of Charter Boat: Billionaire (Don't be THAT guy!)
- Don't Put your Confidence In money: **Hope:** Lit = *Confidence, expectation, hope, trust*
Illus: Because I have THIS much...I am OK! But you aren't! (Rich man last week!)
- Remember where your money ultimately comes from: **Richly provides:** Lit = *to furnish something abundantly*
Illus: Psm 23: My cup runneth over! That's how God provides
- Understand: God provides our needs...and some to **enjoy!** Lit = *to fully enjoy!*
Illus: Years ago hear someone share:
Illus: Give 10% Save 10% Use the rest with joy and gladness: (Add ...using it wisely!)
God still expects us to be good stewards...but our enjoyment is part of it

2. Five Actions Paul Says Are Important.

Vs 18

- Be sure you are "**doing good!**": Lit = *to do good things:* Any of 1000:
Illus: Give to Compassion, Christmas Boxes; Camp, Mission trips (Any kids?)
- Be sure you are "**rich in good works!**": Lit = *not just doing good things...but RICH, Overflowing, Regularly doing*
Illus: We want to be rich in cars, boats, jewelry, stocks, bonds...GOOD WORKS!
- Be sure you are **Generous and ready to share**
Generous: Lit = *Liberal in your desire to distribute things to others!* Looking for an opportunity to give!
When my wife and I were dating...I would tip...Give 10% You are cheap!
Partially because she gets tips...she understands how important...Now I have been trained!
Share: Lit = *Eager and Willing to share* This talks about not just what you are doing...but HOW
Do you Look for the opportunity..Do you WANT to help, Desire to bless others Proactive?
- Be sure you are "**laying up treasures in heaven!**" What does this mean? This is explaining how our REAL retirement
When we arrive in heaven...there are rewards waiting for us...
Paul is telling us...make sure you are using your worldly wealth to provide REAL blessing in future
1 Cor 3:11-14 Same word for "foundation" that is used in 6:19
What are you going to stand on in the life to come? What have you sent ahead? What rewards?
- Be sure you are holding on to "**real life!**"
Illus: Can I tell you something? "Real life" that satisfies the soul cannot be bought or sold!
You can buy "experiences" You can buy activities, You can buy pleasures...Can't buy "Real Life!"
I saw real life at BYB: Stood to the side: Music, food...Kids in Pit...Fellowship...Snowball
You can buy the food...you can by the concert...You can buy everything but the Joy! Relationship
Some of us...we have made the mistake of thinking we can buy life...and we cant!
Illus: Learned that many years ago: Trip to Cuba: Came back, Met Darlene Girls in Fl: Disney and Epcot
Day before I had been in a real Latin culture...now, less than 24 hours...all fake: (Cost Just as much!)
Remember thinking...we are settling for a cheap substitute! Not real!
Illus: Mission trip parents: Good for you! Giving your kids a REAL life changing experience!

3. Make A Plan To Implement Biblical Giving:

- Decide you want to honor God with giving that is intentional:
2Co 9:7 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give"
Decided: Lit = *to purpose in your heart before hand, to think about and determine*
Not some random...Oh yeah...here comes the offering basket...what do I have: Intentional

- **Determine what your gift should be:**
How do you do that? Follow the biblical pattern
 ~I believe the bible teaches a 10% tithe, with offerings and gifts over and above that as you are able
 ~Why? Preceded OT Law, Incorporated in OT Law, Endorsed by Jesus
 Lu 11:42 *"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.*

Applic: Some of you hear that and you think! You have to be kidding me...I could never do that!

Never given before...5 or 10

Because of that you may have to grow into giving: Start by Become intentional

Start where you can....and GROW in your giving...

Maybe you are so far behind...can' even imagine a regular percentage:

Do this...TRY GOD! Put Him to the test

Do what the bible says in Malachi 3:10 Put God to the test!

~Whatever your number is it should be:

>Your best: Cain and Able

>Sacrificial: In keeping with what we learned Abraham

>Generous: Paul 2 Cor 8:2 *Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

>Willing: 2 Cor 8:12 *For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.*

- **Give tithe to where you are spiritually fed, nurtured and cared for**
Give your tithe, the first of you giving, to your local church home
 Mal 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (NIV)*
- **Plan to grow in your giving:**
 2 Cor 8:7 *But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (NIV)*
 Excel: Lit = *to develop from bud to blossom*
 5 dollars...give 10, 20, 50
 Give 10% Look at 10.5
 Regardless of where you are:
Illus: Worst advice I ever got...God understands...don't worry about it! I didn't ... Struggled
 Started first church...knew what I SHOULD do...started...God blessed!
- **Start executing your plan**
 Take your flyer and look at it...Multiple different ways to give
 Pick something sacrificial, Generous...Willing...START
 Come see me after a year if it doesn't work!

CONCL:

- **What is your Attitude? Prideful, Arrogant, Unconcerned?**
- **What is your current pattern...what are your actions? Doing good? Generous...Honoring God?**
- **Make a plan...start to implement it...Know it will be tough...Stick with it...Put God to Test**