

THE GREAT GIVE

"THE CURRENCY OF REAL LIFE"

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

This Week's Core Competency

Giving Away My Money – I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes. 2 Corinthians 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.*

Giving away my money isn't the same as throwing away my money, although more people than you might think probably see it that way. After all, what good is my money once it's no longer my money? You have likely heard the adage, "It is better to give than receive" and thought to yourself, "for the one receiving maybe but for the one giving not so much." The adage is based on a saying of Jesus not found in the Gospels. In his parting words to the Ephesian elders Paul quoted the Lord: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Ac 20:35).

Perhaps some need to reset how they view giving, especially giving to fulfill God's purposes. When we put our money in a bank, contribute to a retirement account, pay a child's tuition, invest in a house, etc., we don't think of it as giving money away, let alone throwing money away.

It is no coincidence that the word 'miser' is etymologically related to the word 'miserable.'

— Christian Smith

When we dispense money in these ways, we believe we get something valuable in return, and it's that perceived value we get in return that makes the difference between what we consider "money wasted" and "money well spent." And so one might argue: It's not the money that matters; money has no intrinsic value. It's how we use it that determines its true value. And using it to fulfill God's purposes is a proven win-win value added strategy. Obviously "receivers" win, but "givers" win, too.

And now we have the evidence to prove it. Consider the following research out of the University of Notre Dame:

"For most religious believers, it is an article of faith that it is more blessed to give than to receive. For at least two University of Notre Dame sociologists, it is an article of fact as well.

In their recently published book, *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*, Christian Smith, Notre Dame's William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Sociology, and sociology doctoral candidate Hilary Davidson provide empirical evidence in support of the biblical admonition. According to their analysis of measurable data, people who are generous with their money, time and associations are happier, healthier and more resilient than their less generous counterparts.

The book, published last month by Oxford University Press, makes use of information gathered in Notre Dame's five-year Science of Generosity Initiative. Smith's unprecedented multidisciplinary nationwide survey that found that only 2.7 percent of Americans give a 10th or more of their income to charity, at least 86.2 percent give away less

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than 2 percent of their income and nearly half give nothing.

Smith and Davidson argue that this reluctance to give not only deprives those in need, but also diminishes the happiness of those who could, but don't, help them.

'By grasping onto what we currently have,' Smith writes, 'we lose out on better goods that we might have gained. In holding onto what we possess, we diminish its long-term value to us. By always protecting ourselves against future uncertainties and misfortunes, we are affected in ways that make us more anxious about uncertainties and vulnerable to future misfortunes. In short, by failing to care for others, we do not properly take care of ourselves. It is no coincidence that the word 'miser' is etymologically related to the word 'miserable.'" (<http://generosityresearch.nd.edu/news/53090-the-paradox-of-generosity/>)

day 1 ENCOUNTER – read God's word to put yourself in touch with him.

1 Timothy 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. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 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.

Cf. other translations

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)

17 Command those who are rich in this world's goods not to be haughty or to set their hope on riches, which are uncertain, but on God who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous givers, sharing with others. 19 In this way they will save up a treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the future and so lay hold of what is truly life. (NET)

EXAMINE – what the passage says before you decide what it means.

- * Underline "command" in vv. 17, 18.
- * Circle "rich" and "richly" in vv. 17, 18.
- * Bracket "hope in wealth" and "hope in God" in v. 17.
- * Circle "so uncertain" in v. 17.
- * Box "but" indicating contrast in v. 17.
- * Bracket "for our enjoyment" in v. 17.
- * Underline "tell" in v. 18.
- * Highlight v. 18.
- * Circle "treasure" in v. 19.
- * Circle "firm foundation" in v. 19.
- * Bracket "life that is truly life" in v. 19.

day 2

EXPLORE – the answer to these questions to better understand what the passage means.

Consult the explanation of the message and the notes to follow if you need help.

1. There *were* "rich" believers *then*; there *are* rich believers *now*. Who are they and do you see yourself as one of them?
2. There *are* "rich" believers in this *present world*; there *will be* rich believers in the *coming age*. Who will they be and will you be one of them?
3. What has wealth got to do with arrogance?
4. Explain the *contrast* in verse 17.
5. Why does Paul point to God's generosity?
6. *Contrast* what the rich *are* and *are not* to do.
7. What good is "treasure" in the coming age?
8. A "good foundation" for what?
9. **Discussion:** Talk about Paul's perspective on living "the good life."

day 3

EXAMINE – an explanation of its message to clarify your understanding of the passage.

Paul's words to Timothy found in 1 Timothy 6:17-19 are not difficult to understand. The difficulty is found in doing them, not understanding them. In verses 6-10 the apostle tells his protege what to tell people who "want to get rich." In verses 17-19 he tells him what to tell people who "are rich." One commentator summarizes nicely what Paul has to say to Timothy: "The structure of the passage is simple. Paul gives six admonitions built around five imperatives: do not be haughty, do not set one's hope on riches but on God, do good, be rich in good works, be liberal and generous. He follows with the result of following these actions—the rich will lay a good foundation for the future—and concludes with the reason that they should do these things—in order to grasp true, eschatological, eternal life" (William D. Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 46, *Pastoral Epistles*, 365).

Let's examine the passage verse by verse. In verse 17 Paul uses contrast to tell Timothy that the rich are not "to put their hope in their wealth;" instead, they are "to put their hope in God." Moreover, they are "not to be arrogant." It's easy for rich people to have confidence in their wealth rather than God who gave it. It's easy, too, for them to have an inflated view of themselves. Money plus the self-confidence and independence that regularly come with it can easily lead to arrogance by fooling them into believing that they are better, smarter, and more important than the poor—or even worse, that their wealth is a sure sign of God's approval. Think the rich man's attitude toward Lazarus (Lk 16:19-25). How wise it is to hope in God who richly provides everything for life's enjoyment! Warren Wiersbe writes, "If wealth makes a person proud, then he understands neither himself nor his wealth. 'But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God; for it is He that gives thee power to get wealth' (Deut. 8:18). We are not owners; we are stewards. If we have wealth, it is by the goodness of God and not because of any special merits on our part. The possessing of material wealth ought to humble a person and cause him to glorify God, not himself" ("1 Timothy," in *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, 2:238). How foolish to hope in this world's wealth that is "here today and gone tomorrow!"

In verse 18 Paul tells Timothy to tell the rich to be rich in deeds rather than dollars. All of the terms he uses in this verse—do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous and willing to share—likely imply, first and

foremost, that they should give away their dollars. One interpreter explains: These final four actions are the natural result of realizing that all a person has is a gift from God. Paul starts with the general 'do good' and moves to the more specific 'be rich in good deeds,' and then clarifies that by 'good deeds' he means sharing generously with others" (367). If the point of verse 17 is enjoy what God gives you, the point of verses 18-19 is employ what God gives you. Paul isn't telling Timothy to tell the rich to give away *all* of their money; a farmer doesn't sell his seed corn! He is telling him to tell them to be wildly generous.

In verse 19 Paul tells Timothy to remind the rich that it is possible to be rich in this present age and poor in the next, just as it is possible to be poor in this present age and rich in the next. Paul's words to Timothy are doubtless based on Jesus' words to his disciples recorded in Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Generosity returns value. On the one hand, it is treasure. On the other, it is a foundation. It involves taking hold of "life that is truly life." The significance of the metaphors is less than crystal clear. However, the gist of their significance is more or less captured in the following words. Believers live in this present age, which means they must address everyday realities, but they also look forward to the age to come, which means they must address future realities as well. By being generous and willing to share with others in this age they accomplish two things. They lay up treasure for themselves and establish a firm foundation for their life there—two marks of *continuity* between this age and the next. Believers may not be able to take it with them, but they are able to send it on ahead. One commentator writes: "By working out their salvation in practical ways such as sharing, they are transferring their riches to the coming age, establishing a firm foundation for them there. This is not the reason for sharing but the result. The reason for doing so, apart from recognizing one's true position in the present age as a recipient of God's gracious gifts, is the desire to grab on to life that is truly life: eschatological life, eternal life." (369).

The Message of the Passage

Put your hope in God, not your wealth, so you can be wildly generous to others, thereby laying up treasure for the future and taking hold of true life now.

day **4** **EMBRACE** – how God spoke to you through his word.

Our desire is to not be merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word as James teaches in James 1:22. Reflect on 3 "living questions" to apply what you have learned this week.

• **Journal your answers to the following *living* questions:**

–How is God making himself known to you?

–How does God want to change you?

–How is God calling you to change your world?

notes STUDY – the commentaries to answer the questions.

v. 17 **command** "The Gk term [*parangelle*] in the PE [Pastoral Epistles] means 'to urge' rather than 'to command' (cf. 1 Tim 1:3), and this confirms that Paul is speaking not to his opponents but generally to those in the church; his language is stronger when addressing the opponents" (Mounce, 366).

v. 17 **rich** "Throughout this passage there is a play on the various forms of the word [*plousios*], 'rich.' Those who are rich [*plousios*] should set their hope not on uncertain riches [*ploutos*] but on God who richly [*plousioos*] gives all things. Rather they should be rich [*ploutein*] in good deeds. This is similar to the play on the word [*pistis*], 'faith,' in 1 Tim 1:12-17" (365).

v. 17 **hope in wealth** To hope "in" something "signals a confident anticipation." It indicates that one trusts in that something to bring benefits of one kind or another. "The rich are not to place their confidence in wealth, the perfect tense [*elpikenai*], 'to set [their] hope,' emphasizing in a negative sense the assuredness of their conviction" (366).

v. 17 **so uncertain** Cf., "the uncertainty of riches" (ESV). The Gk term [*adeloteti*] occurs only here in the NT. "The uncertainty of wealth has been commented on from ancient times. It takes to itself wings and flies away (Prov. 23:5). Even great fortunes have disappeared almost overnight" (Ralph Earle, "1 Timothy," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 11:388).

v. 17 **our enjoyment** "The last word is *apolausin* (only here and Heb 11:25). This strong compound suggests that physical pleasure is in itself not sinful, but divinely ordained when sought within the structure of God's will. White rightly observes, 'No good purpose is served by pretending that God did not intend us to enjoy the pleasurable sensations of physical life' (EGT, 4:149)" (Earle, 388). "All things' is not everything people could possibly want, as if God were obligated to fulfill every wish. 1 Tim 6:8 limits human needs to food and clothing, and therein lies God's obligation. [*panta*] means that everything a person has whether it be food and clothing or more, is a gift from God" (Mounce, 366).

v. 19 **treasure for themselves** Cf., Mt 6:19-21. "The phrase 'for themselves' emphasizes that generous givers may imagine that they are helping others, but they also are storing up significant personal benefits . . . The godless, on the other hand, lay up treasures for themselves of a different kind (Jas 5:1-5)" (Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, Jr., *1, 2 Timothy, Titus*, NAC, 176)."

v. 19 **firm foundation** "The mixing of metaphors [i.e., treasure/foundation] is somewhat confusing—Bernard (102) calls it 'inexact brevity'—but the basic thrust is clear. By being generous, the rich are not losing their wealth. Rather, they are laying it away in heaven, and by doing so, they are establishing a firm foundation for eternity, for life that is truly life. Lock translates, 'in this way they store up true treasures for themselves which form a firm foundation on which they can build for the future' (73)" (Mounce, 368).

Family Talk

Encouragement from one parent's heart to another

Throughout The Great Give series, we will be looking at excerpts from *Smart Money Smart Kids* by Dave Ramsey and Rachel Cruz. This book is available for purchase in our KidPix store. A children's book, *The Case of Stuart's Ship: A Lesson in Stewardship*, is also available. This fun book will help kids discover that stewardship means more than giving away our money. Eight-year-old Timothy went to the grocery store with his mom. On the way there, she told him that if he behaved, she would let him pick out some candy when they were checking out. Timothy was on his best behavior. He helped his mom put groceries in the cart and stayed close to her side in the store. He had his mind set on his reward! When they reached the register, he carefully looked at all his options. They were so many! He finally chose and placed it on the counter. His mom paid for the candy and handed it to Timothy. To her surprise, he turned around and gave it to the young boy in line behind them. When they reached the car, Timothy's mom asked him why he had done that. He told her he had heard the little boy ask for some candy but his mom said they couldn't afford it until she found a job. Timothy wasn't rich in chocolate but he was rich in good deeds!

What Does The Bible Say

Weekly Verse: Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. Why were the rich warned to not put their hope in their wealth?
2. What were they told to put their hope in?
3. What were they commanded to be rich in?

What Do You Think

Have you ever given away or shared something that was valuable to you? If so, how did that make you feel? If not, what is something you can pray about give away?

What R U Going To Do

Generosity happens in lots of different ways. You can be generous with your money, your time and your things. Plan one act of generosity this week. Write what you did on the bottom of the page and earn an extra token!

MEMORY TIME

Core Comp: Giving Away my Money – I share my money to help with God's work

Memory Verses: Mt 6:19-21 – *Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

KIDPIX COUPON

I memorized CC ____ and Verse _____. Family completed **Say** _____ **Think** _____ **Do** _____

Child's name _____ Grade ____ Parent's signature _____

Earn 1 token by completing the PantegoKids Bible study and another token by reciting the memory verse.
Questions: Kids@pantego.org

30 CORE COMPETENCIES

10 CORE BELIEFS

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9*

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 CORE PRACTICES

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33*

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians*

6:19-20

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 CORE VIRTUES

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

About the Authors

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Wendy Hollabaugh (B.S.W. University of Texas at Arlington) is the Children's Minister at Pantego Bible Church. Wendy has over ten years of experience in Children's Ministry. She has a passion for leading families to connect with God and each other. She enjoys creating compelling environments where kids fall in love with God and His Truth. Wendy and her husband, Greg, are also involved in their own personal youth ministry as they are training their three teenagers, Hannah, Aaron and Noah.



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The mission of THE SCROLLS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices, and virtues of a follower of Jesus Christ called The 30 Core Competencies through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions or comments you may have about this lesson to Tom Bulick. His e-mail address is tbulick@pantego.org.