

137,491	9,198,126
137,491	9,198,126
3,952,788	
1,430,723	
100,029	146,812
1,596	366,271
101,625	1,354,851
35,866	856,411
2,420	8,107,861
	1,090,251
36	
370	
(239)	
16	
286	
1,25	
16	

BERICHT

> PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords, and his greatness so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has seen, nor been heard of, nor entered into the mind of any man. 12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which you have been called. 13 And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 15 For

H

(2) "Do Good" HIGHLIGHT: 1 Timothy 6:18 a,b NLT

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

1 Timothy 6 (NLT) vv. 17-19

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

E

EXPLAIN

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

"We humans have a great capacity for trusting our own instincts more than God's principles. We are adept at blocking out divine warnings and no amount of divine prompting will divert the intent soul from the path that most appeals. So God allows his children to go ahead and waits for them to face the reality that he has spoken and that they have ignored"—Stuart Briscoe, from *Daily Devotional*, "Trusting Your Own Instincts".

1 Timothy 6 Last week we were made aware of the hidden traps that lie along the path called "desiring, longing after riches" (1 Timothy 6:9-10). But that has done little to curb our appetites for "more." Consumerism—"a social and economic order that encourages the acquisition of goods and services in ever-increasing amounts" (Wikipedia)—is at a pandemic stage. *Get all you can and can all you get.* Jesus knew the young ruler's wealth was the idol keeping him enslaved and stopping him from following the call of the Kingdom (see *Matthew 19:16-25*). Tom Wright reminds us, while there are many who are in that condition, there are "others who, for whatever reason, happen to have more money that their basic needs require, and who need wise instruction on what to do with it" (*Pastoral Letters*, p. 78).

v.18a, b Let's be honest with ourselves: *most of us using this study have more than our basic needs require. "My cup overflows with blessings" (Psalm 23:5c).* For some, the cup is larger than for others. But most of us have to admit we are blessed—and the cup runs over. Most of us don't have all we want, but most of us have all we need—and more. So what do we do with the blessings God gives us.

First of all, we should never use our wealth as a badge of "pride" (v.17a). "Strutting our stuff" has no place in the Body of Christ. While not speaking directly to the topic of material blessings Paul reminds us everything is a gift from God; we have nothing that we did not receive (see *1 Corinthians 4:7*). And what we do have is not ours to use as we want; it is God's (*Psalm 24:1*). Our responsibility is to wisely use what He has given in a way that brings Him glory (*1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10-11*). Haughtiness, arrogance, pride, and boasting are offensive to God and can bring damage to our brothers and sisters (see *Proverbs 8:13; 11:2; 13:10; 16:18; Romans 1:30; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Timothy 3:4; Luke 12:16-20a*). Question: are you hungry for God or what He gives you? You are responsible for your attitude.

Second, **Paul tells us to use our money to do good**; to be rich in good works. Wealth is not evil; it is a-moral. Totally neutral. Its value is determined by the one who uses it. Just as nuclear energy can give life (a tool to fight cancer or to supply electrical power for millions) or take it away (nuclear bombs), money can be used to bless ("doing good") or to blight (look at the number of times the rich farmer referenced himself in *Luke 12:17-19*). We are all called to please the Spirit with the lives and money he has given us to manage for His glory (*Galatians 6:7-10*). Some can do more; some less. But we all can do good—act for someone's advantage. [Jesus] "went about doing good" (*Acts 10:38*). And we are to grow in His likeness.

APPLY

A

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. How can wealth lead to pride?
How can pride alter our trust in God?
3. What is the purpose of being "rich in good works" (v. 18)? See James 2:14-26.
4. Where does our ability to do good works come from? See Ephesians 2:8-10; John 15:5.
5. Are our good works the basis for our salvation?

RESPOND

R

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. Think of someone who knows you, someone who knows your financial situation. Would they think these verses are an encouragement to you or a challenge to you, or both? Why?

2. Have you been able to use the money God has bless you with to do good for others or have you been the benefactor of someone else using the money God has blessed them with for your own good? Share the story of the good you have experience or given.

Spend time this week praying for God to use you for more good works. Ask him how he wants you to live out the blessings he richly provides to you. Ask him to give you a more generous heart; one fully surrendered to Him and caring about others.