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|-----------|-----------|
| 137,491 | 9,198,126 |
| 137,491 | 9,198,126 |
| 3,952,788 | |
| 1,430,723 | |
| 146,812 | |
| 100,029 | |
| 1,596 | |
| 366,272 | |
| 1,354,851 | |
| 856,411 | |
| 101,625 | 8,107,861 |
| 35,866 | 1,090,251 |
| 2,420 | |
| 36 | |
| 370 | |
| 239 | |
| 16 | |
| 286 | |
| 1,25 | |
| 16 | |

BE RICH

> 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 faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which

H

(1) "Trusting Money; Distrusting God"

HIGHLIGHT: 1 Timothy 6:11-17; Matthew 19:16-24 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. 11-17

11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. 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, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. 16 He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

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.

Matthew 19 (NLT)

vv. 16-24

16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" 17 "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. 19 Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" 21 Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. 24 I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

EXPLAIN

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

In certain circles the question is often asked, "What do you do with your money?" It may relate to investments, savings, charities, etc. But we need to ask a more important question about our relationship to money: "What does your money do with you?" That is what we will dig into in this series from 1 Timothy 6: BE RICH.

1 Timothy 6:11-17 Paul had mentored Timothy for several years before entrusting the ministry and health of the Ephesian church to him (*1 Tim. 1:3*). Not only was he dealing with organizational tasks like worship (*chapter 2*) and selecting capable leadership (*chapter 3*), he was also dealing with false teachers who "caused trouble" and did it for the purpose of "becoming wealthy" (*6:5*)—a sure recipe for disaster not only for themselves but also for those who believed them (*6:9-10*).

vv.11-12 Paul reminds Timothy he is a bigger man than those who would destroy their own lives and the church for their own selfish gain. Timothy **is a man of God**. We all need reminders at times. That roaring lion (*1 Peter 5:8*)—the great enemy of our souls—is always ready to shoot "flaming arrows" at us when he sees us taking a misstep or listening to a wooing voice (see *Ephesians 6:12, 16*). Paul tells Timothy to **run away from all these evil things** just like you'd run away from an animal you are afraid of, and **pursue righteousness and a godly life** just like you would run to your best friend who you hadn't seen in years. Chase after God. You've been called to something better than the pursuit of riches; **God has called you to eternal life**—that life which is God's and, therefore, unbounded by time. Remember **the God you confessed so well** at your baptism. "Sacramentum" was the name used to describe certain events, one of which was the oath of allegiance to Caesar when a young man joined the army of Rome. "I will live for Caesar; I will fight for Caesar; if need be I will die for Caesar. I belong to Caesar." When we are baptized we are taking an oath of allegiance to God. "I will live for God; I will fight for God; if need be I will die for God. I belong to God" (see *Acts 20:28* and *1 Cor. 6:20*).

vv.13-16 And we also need to remember the One to whom we make our oath of allegiance. As far as man's ability and power is concerned, God is the **One and only who can never die and lives in light so brilliant** that no mortal man can **approach Him. Christ is the only Almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. All honor and power to Him forever!** (see *Job 42:1-6; Psalm 2:1-5; Romans 11:33-36; Philippians 2:9-11*).

v.17 The NT is so practical. It reminds us of facts that our culture wants to forget. Such as, "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" (*6:10*). Such as, **money is so unreliable (uncertain NIV)**. We all know, at least with our heads (our hearts may not have caught up) that "we brought nothing with us into this world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it" (*6:7*). Not only will we not take it with us when we go, we can't even be sure we're going to keep it while we're here! (see *Proverbs 23:5*; look at what COVID has done to wealth across the world). Money comes and goes: GOD DOES NOT. Remind yourself of this great God in *vv.13-16*. That's the God who is from everlasting to everlasting. Money cannot stand up to Him. He will stand forever. Would you have invested in the World Trade Center if you knew what was going to happen on 9/11/01—no matter how good a deal it was? Of course not. Would you have gone to work at the WTC that morning if you knew what was happening a couple of hours later?

Of course not. Why would we trust something that could not handle the “storm”? Question: why would we trust money to get us through the storm when it cannot endure the storm? **To those who are rich: don't be proud and don't trust your money. Trust in God** (see *Ecclesiastes 5:10-11*). **He richly give us all we need for our enjoyment.** This certainly does not mean He will give us money. He has already said money is unreliable. But He does give us all we need for a life of joy. Two of the happiest people I ever met were Louie and Alice Kincaid. The first time I went to their house I was shocked that their “front porch” was nothing but dirt underneath a tin roof. You can imagine my surprise when I walked inside: dirt floors. But they had smiles on their faces because their hope was in God. And they were content. And when Alice would sing, “How Great Thou Art” there would not be a dry eye in the audience. They knew the God who gave them all they needed for their enjoyment.

Matthew 19:16-24 is the story of the cost of discipleship—a cost that many wealthy people find too high. If you take the time to read these verses you will find Jesus is not teaching a complete renunciation of possessions. The rich, young ruler had a particular need—and Jesus met him at that point. He loved his wealth more than eternal life, peace, and being in a right relationship with God. **He went away sad, for he had many possessions.** The issue was not what he was going to do with his money, but what his money had done with him (see *Lk. 9:23-25*).

APPLY

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. Why do you think it's sometimes difficult to talk about money?
3. Why does Paul tell Timothy to flee from the love of money? (See *1 Timothy 6:9-12*)
4. Do you love wealth more than you love Jesus Christ? Have you ever chosen wealth, money or something you really wanted, over living for Jesus?

RESPOND

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. Paul tells Timothy to, “Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable.” (v. 17) He tells them to trust God instead of their money. Have there been times you put your faith in something other than God? If I made just a little more money, I'd be happy. If we could just afford that vacation or this car. If I just had more life insurance or more retirement money saved. If I find the right spouse, or my team wins. If this, that, or the other, then I will be...

Why did you trust in this instead of trusting in God? How can you stay aware of the things you trust over God so you will learn to trust him instead?

2. In Matthew 19:22, the young man "went away sad, for he had many possessions."
What "possessions" in your life give you joy?

Which of those possessions have a hold on your life that they tempt you to choose them over God?

Bring them before God and ask him to place the possessions in the proper order in your life: first, God, then, everything else.