
THE PROS AND CONS OF BEING RICH

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-21



Why do so many want to be rich? It's partly because we want the respect and influence that wealth gives. God's view of wealth will save us from the danger of material wealth and help us to seek true spiritual wealth.

Paul has already re-framed and re-defined riches in verses 6-10 of 1 Timothy 6, and now in verses 17-21, the last verses of the letter, Paul re-frames and re-defines the rich. In doing so, he encourages Timothy to a biblical view of riches that will take away fear of his wealthy opponents and help him to be faithful in his dealings with them. We learn:

- THE RICH HAVE EXTRA TEMPTATIONS
- THE RICH HAVE EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES
- THE RICH ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK

LEARNING

THE RICH HAVE EXTRA TEMPTATIONS

Rich people are tempted with pride. **As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty** (17). The wealthy often feel superior to the less wealthy and look down on the poor as inferior people.

Because rich people are tempted to trust in riches, Timothy is to charge them **not to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God** (17). Money can become our comfort and security. We end up trusting our accountant rather than our Creator.

As the rich are tempted to think they that they are entirely self-made, they are to remember that it is **God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy** (17). They are God-made not self-made.

IF WE'RE TEMPTED TO ASK FOR MORE MONEY,
WE'RE ASKING FOR MORE TEMPTATION.

"Are there no positives of wealth?" Yes, many.

THE RICH HAVE EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

The rich **are to do good, to be rich in good works** (18). Wealth gives the wealthy a great opportunity to invest in others and frees them from paid work to engage in voluntary works for the good of others. The rich are **to be generous and ready to share** (18), because they have money surplus to their needs and therefore extra opportunities to give to others.

In doing this they are **storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life** (19). This does not mean that charitable works earns us eternal life? It means, keep your mind on the world to come and use your resources with a view to doing eternal good.

THE RICH HAVE MORE RESOURCES
AND THEREFORE MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.

"If I'm not rich, there's nothing in these verses for me." Oh yes there is!

THE RICH ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK

Timothy is to **guard the deposit entrusted to you** (20). Because the Gospel is so valuable, those who have it are truly rich, and protect it like a gold bar. In so doing we will **avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith** (20-21).

Timothy is to guard God's gold and avoid the fools' gold of error, even if it's coming from the wealthy, because it leads people astray.

THE POOR IN SPIRIT
HAVE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

LOVING

Unlike people, God does not relate to us depending on how much money we have. Don't you love that about God? Jesus did the same. He warned the rich and lifted up the poor. He valued faith more than finance, dependence more than dollars.

LIVING

Reframe wealth so that we are safe from its dangers, develop its opportunities, and value those who are spiritually rich.
