

INTRODUCTION

What constitutes being rich in this present age?

We need to know, because the next few verses in 1 Timothy are addressed to those who are rich in this present age.

And we need to know this from the Bible, not just from our own imagining or guessing.

To answer this question, and set us up well for today's message from 1 Timothy, let's make three stops in the gospel of Luke.

Luke 3:11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

Essentially, to be rich is to have more than what you need for your bare necessities. Here John the Baptist references food and clothing, which is often the formula for stating what the bare essentials are.

Luke 1:53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.

Mary, by the Holy Spirit, spoke of how God saves, how He rights wrongs, how He judges justly, especially how He will do so through the Messiah. Along the way, she expresses how the thing we often see in the unjust ways of men is that the rich are filled with good things, but the hungry are sent away empty. When God brings salvation, He reverses that injustice, and fills the hungry with good things. I observe from that line that Mary's conception of what it is to be rich is to be filled with good things. So I'll put to you that if a baseline for being rich is to have more than you need, a middle point in the spectrum of being rich is to be filled with good things.

-drawers and closets filled with good clothes and shoes

-refrigerator and cupboards filled with good food

Luke 16:19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

Our Lord Jesus, telling a parable, spoke of this rich man. The description of his riches was again put in terms of food and clothing. He was clothed not only in good clothes, but in the finest, richest clothes. He not only had more than enough food, and was filled with good food, but actually fared sumptuously every day. He ate like it was Thanksgiving every day. So I could say that there high end of the spectrum on being rich is to have so much that everything you do is the using and consuming of lots of the very best, richest things.

So, what is it to be rich in this present age?

The baseline or minimum of what it means to be rich is to have more than you need for basic necessities.

There is a broad range of wealth in which a rich person is filled with good things.

There is an extreme of wealth in which the rich person is always using and consuming the very most expensive of everything.

Note: Some of the temptations that come upon the rich also come upon those who look forward to getting rich in the future.

So, as you hear what our Lord has to say by His apostle, Paul, to those who are rich, you can know how that applies to you.

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (18) Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, (19) storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

BODY

I. There Are Temptations That Come Upon Those Who Are Rich

A. To be haughty or high-minded

1. G5309 *hupselophroneo* lit. to be high minded
 - a) our word “haughty” is what became of the Latin word *altus* once it had passed through French into Middle English
2. to think of yourself too highly
 - a) to fancy yourself as above other people
 - b) to fancy yourself as God
3. APPLICATION: Do not be high-minded or haughty; repent of this; be forgiven by God for this through the blood of Jesus Christ

B. To trust in uncertain riches

1. why do I feel good about tomorrow, about the future?
 - a) is it because I have money coming in, money in the bank, money in real estate or other investments?
2. riches are not worth trusting in, being uncertain
 - a) Proverbs 23:4-5 Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! (5) Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.
 - b) Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;
3. APPLICATION: Do not trust in uncertain riches; repent of this; be forgiven by God for this through the blood of Jesus Christ

There are temptations that come upon those who are rich

II. There Are Righteous Commands for Those Who Are Rich

A. Trust in the living God

1. if you are to some degree rich, do not let yourself think
 - a) that ultimately you got those riches for yourself
 - b) that those riches give you what you want
 - c) that those riches, without God's blessing, will do you any good
2. recognize that it is God who gives us richly all things to enjoy
 - a) He can make a poor righteous man 100 times happier than a rich wicked man
 - b) all riches, no matter how we come by them, ultimately are given to us by Him
 - c) He made Job the richest man in all the east, then allowed the devil to make Job the poorest man, then made Job richer even than he had been
3. so, to whatever degree you are rich or poor, do not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy

B. Do good

1. be rich in good works
2. be ready to distribute or give; be generous
 - a) Gr. word lit. good with giving over
 - b) see Luke 3:11 let him give to him who has none; being good at that or good with that
3. be willing to communicate or share
 - a) we read many times in the Bible the Greek noun *koinonia*, used to mean communion, communication, fellowship, sharing, contribution, sharing
 - b) our word here is the adjective form of that, Gr. *koinonikos* "fellowshipy" or "shary"

C. Note how the prescription in this place in the word of God is the same as everywhere else:

1. have faith in God and obey Him
2. believe His promises and obey His commandments
3. trust yourself to Jesus Christ and follow Him

There are temptations that come upon those who are rich

There are righteous alternatives for those who are rich

III. There Are Promised Blessings for Those Who Are Rich

- A. Dispensing riches in the present time, you store up a good foundation for the time to come
 1. anything we give to others during this life was not also given to us by God
 2. so we cannot give anything to God that is not already His
 3. yet so graciously does He deal with us poor creatures, that our Lord Jesus Christ told us that in doing good with our earthly wealth, which God has given us, we are laying up treasure in heaven
 4. if we deny ourselves the carnal enjoyment of surplus wealth in this life, by giving it to someone who needs it, our Heavenly Father will see that we enjoy it in heaven forever
- B. Trusting in the living God, you lay hold on eternal life
 1. all of us, whether rich or poor, deserve eternal death for the sins we have committed
 2. to anyone that trusts in something in this world to save him from that death---whether his own good works, or some man-made religion, or his own riches---our Lord Jesus says, “you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked”
 3. but to anyone who knows himself to be poor spiritually, who mourns over his sinfulness, who looks to God to save him, who hungers and thirsts for righteousness, our Lord Jesus says,
 - a) John 3:14-17 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
 4. so it is, that for everyone who is rich in this world, as also for everyone who is poor in this world, by trusting not in riches or in anything else but Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, by faith you lay hold on eternal life

CONCLUSION

There are temptations that come upon those who are rich

There are righteous alternatives for those who are rich

There are promised blessings for those who are rich

Therefore, I command you who are rich in this present age:

Do not be highminded, but instead do good

Do not trust in uncertain riches, but trust in God through Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. 2022-11-06

1689.1.8 ...the New Testament in Greek...kept pure...authentic...in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them.

1689.19.2 ...ten commandments

1689.19.3 ...this law, commonly called moral

1689.19.5 The moral law doth for ever bind all...to the obedience thereof...

1689.19.3 ...to the people of Israel ceremonial laws...by Jesus...abrogated and taken away.

1689.19.4 To them also he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any now by virtue of that institution...

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 84

Thad - Scripture Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Romans 11:36

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 400 "Come, Thou Fount" - Andrew lead

Allison - Trinity 548 "More Love to Thee, O Christ" - Alex lead

Allison - Trinity 270 "The Church's One Foundation" - Andrew lead