**THE DESIRE TO BE RICH**

1 Timothy 6:9-12

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**INTRODUCTION**

As we saw last week, godliness plus (plus contentment) provides “great gain” and that the desire for things is not to be the driving force in our life. This includes money, or riches. Since this matter is one of the most misunderstood aspects of Christian teaching today, I want us to examine Paul’s view of the role of money and what to do if God blesses us with wealth.

1. **WHAT WE ARE *NOT* TO DO**
2. We are told not to **pursue** wealth. What? Why?
3. It causes many to fall into temptation.
4. It causes many to fall into a trap.
5. It causes many to fall into many foolish and harmful desires.
6. It causes many to plunge into ruin and destruction.
7. It causes many to wander away from the faith.
8. It causes many to pierce themselves with many griefs.
9. We are told not to **seek** these things. “Flee from all this.”
10. **WHAT WE *ARE* TO DO**
11. We are told to pursue **spiritual** **goals**.
12. We are to pursue righteousness.
13. We are to pursue godliness.
14. We are to pursue faith.
15. We are to pursue love.
16. We are to pursue endurance.
17. We are to pursue gentleness.
18. We are told we are involved in a **war**: “Fight the good fight of the faith.”
19. **WHAT THE WEALTHY ARE TO DO**
20. They are to remember that all that they have comes **from** **God**.
21. They should not be proud of their wealth.
22. They should not trust wealth, since wealth is never guaranteed.
23. They should not hoard wealth, as God gives it for our enjoyment.
24. They are to remember to always **do** **good**.
25. They should prefer to be rich in good deeds.
26. They should prefer to be generous and willing to share with the less fortunate.
27. They should prefer to have treasures in Heaven rather than here on earth.

**CONCLUSION**

The poor who want to be wealthy are told to “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.” Yes, Paul was writing to young Timothy, a preacher; but he was speaking to all who are not rich but desire to be. Then, Paul tells the wealthy to “take hold of life that is truly life.” You see from this passage that all of us should have as our focus living and enjoying the ***real*** life that God has given to us, not the ***fake*** life that the world wants us to have and enjoy. Whether rich or poor, keep your focus on Jesus, not the things of the world! Therein lies real joy!

*“We are one in the bond of love; We are one in the bond of love.*

*We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God; We are one in the bond of love.”*