

LifeGroup Questions
Based On: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
November 8, 2015

Overview

Paul ends his first letter to Timothy by telling him to command the wealthy to be put their hope in God. Paul uses fairly strong language when addressing wealth. He doesn't tell Timothy to suggest, mention, or persuade in regard to the responsibilities of wealth. Timothy is to directly command the wealthy where they are to put their hope. With this in mind we need to answer the question: "What is considered wealthy?" For some there needs to be at least six or seven figures in the bank account before they can be considered wealthy. For others wealth can just be an added bonus to their paycheck at the end of the month. The amount of wealth is not addressed because it doesn't matter. Responsibility with finances exists no matter the amount.

Wealth has its benefits, but it can also be dangerous. Paul warns against the wealthy being arrogant. It becomes easy to put your trust in a bank account and not in God. This leads to an attitude where you feel like you can handle everything on your own and you don't need God. A big problem with putting your trust in wealth is that it is uncertain. God can provide in ways that no amount of wealth can. Paul commands the wealthy to do several things. First, they are to be rich in good deeds. Second, they are to be generous and willing to share. Both of these require someone to look to the needs of others and not just themselves. By doing these things Paul states that you "can take hold of life that is truly life."

Bible Study: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. How would you define what it means to be wealthy? In what ways would your definition of wealth change if you lived in a different culture/country?
2. How can becoming wealthy impact your faith?
3. There a lot of things you can put your hope in. What does it really mean to put your hope in God? How does this focused hope guide the decisions you make?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. What is the difference between working hard and becoming wealthy and being eager for money?
5. Discuss as a group ways you can become rich in good deeds.
6. How can a believer develop a generous spirit?
7. Describe a time when you felt fulfilled by either serving someone else or being generous.