



**Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas**  
**Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study**  
**March 3, 2010**

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**Lesson Twenty-One - A Word for the Rich**  
**1 Timothy 6:17-21**

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. *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge -- by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

### Introduction

The Apostle Paul closes this letter to Timothy with two instructions, one for what Timothy is to tell the wealthy in the church at Ephesus and the other for Timothy himself. Both remain particularly pertinent for our present culture.

### Exegesis

- ❖ A Commandment for the Wealthy
  - Defining wealth

Defining wealth tends to be a relative matter because covetous and greedy hearts are always comparing themselves to their neighbors. A basic definition for Biblical consideration might be this: having sufficient assets as to live without concern for basic essentials, namely food, shelter and clothing. This is not about the kind of food, the kind of shelter and the kind of clothing, but something to eat, something to keep us out of the elements and something to clothe our bodies. According to that definition, how many of us are wealthy?

- The dangers of wealth

The first danger is haughtiness, taking our value from what we possess. It is the worldview that the greater your assets the greater your power and prestige. The second danger follows the first as a person begins to trust in his assets finding his security in what he possesses. Where is the danger?

1) Pride in present age possessions blinds a person to the reality of eternity. 2) Wealth's certainty is a mirage that can quickly vanish. 3) Both pride and trust in wealth lead a person away from the living God.

- The delight of God's richness
  - Enjoy God's gifts – whatever God gives you, delight in Him and His gift that He might be glorified in you.
  - Do good with God's gifts – use what God gives you well and beneficially for others.

- Be rich in good works – so that you are noted not for what you possess, but for your acts of kindness, grace and mercy in which God may be glorified. (Matthew 5:16)
- Ready to give – possess a heart of liberality.
- Willing to share – making it personal; giving not only what you have but investing who you are into the lives of others for the glory of God out of love and gratitude for what God has shared of His grace with you.
  - Invest God’s gifts – investing for the future through grace motivated kindness and generosity; a contrast to the world’s mindset. (Matthew 6:19-21)
  - Laying hold of eternal life – “*in order that they might take hold of the real life*”; living the real life, the Jesus life, is not about getting and keeping, but getting and giving for the blessing of others to the glory of God in the joy of grace.

❖ A Commandment for Timothy

Timothy is commanded to guard (keep, watch over, observe) what has been committed to him. And what had been committed to Timothy? Everything Paul had poured into him concerning the “sound words” of the Lord Jesus Christ. (6:3)

How does Timothy stay on course? By avoiding the profitless talk and useless debates of those who claim knowledge of God yet whose lives deny it. Paul’s closing concern seemed to be that Timothy not get caught up in the newest theological fad, but rather stay true to the teachings of Jesus.

**Application**

1. Reexamine your wealth status:
  - a. What has God given me?
  - b. Why has God given it to me?
  - c. What am I doing with what God has given me?
2. Understand the correlation between deeds that bless others, the glory of God and your own joy.
3. Understand that the closing word of “grace” is no mere formality; it is the means by which everything in this letter can be done.
  - a. It is by grace that the sound words of the Lord Jesus may be kept.
  - b. It is by grace and its loving overflow in our lives that we may share generously the gifts of God in our lives with others for their benefit, God’s glory and our joy.