

“Truest Treasure” (1 Tim. 6:17-21)

1. Prosperity (17)

- a. Final group Paul addressed are the wealthy. Such a category is broader than one may initially consider.
- b. We obviously need to avoid arrogance “haughty.” But the principle is broader re: presumption. How much do we rely on God for our daily bread? How much do we rely on our abilities, influence, status, personalities, etc.? Jer. 9:23!
- c. Beauty, wealth, health, intelligence can be taken away in a moment!
- d. We must learn contentment in what the LORD has afforded us “to enjoy.”
- e. “Who gives us richly” Philip Towner explained: “the argument points to God’s benevolent willingness to extend creation as a gift: here he “provides<sup>14</sup> everything richly” (Titus 3:5-6), not in the sense of wasteful excess but as a fitting description of the gracious and sufficient provision that will meet (and continue to meet) every need.”<sup>1</sup> →
- f. What more could God have given than His Son? He indeed has richly blessed those who were destined to torment and outer darkness with love’s pure light, love, and life.
- g. Even compared to the most famous, celebrated, wealthiest, strongest, healthiest people on earth; our treasure of Christ infinitely surpasses such wealth.

2. Charity (18)

- a. Society knows not what love is. They think it is adoration or approval. True charity is resolve to serve even those of whom the subject doesn’t approve. \*Note no enabling cf. 5:3-16.
- b. Rather than indulge in our riches, we must use them to bless and provide for others. Not socialism of State redistribution from e.g. believers’ taxes to fund Planned Parenthood and other evil and enabling and sin affirming social programs.
- c. Let us be “rich” in charity not in mere possessions. Our true treasures are where are hearts reside (Mat. 6:19-21).

3. Jesus left His existential wealth of glory to live in poverty for us (2 Cor. 8:9). **Further Study** consider Acts 20:29-35 where Paul demonstrated what he preached in 1 Tim. and elsewhere.

4. Eternity (19)

- a. As Paul contrasted heavenly riches and earthly riches in these verses, he also contrasted here and hereafter (v. 17 “present age” & v. 19 “the time to come”).
- b. Not unlike Jesus contrasting treasures on earth that can be stolen, lost, or corroded w/ those which cannot be lost; Paul reminded Timothy and the Church the stakes of eternal life.
- c. Jim Elliot the martyred missionary, wrote: “He is no fool, who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
- d. Again, these commands to the monetarily rich are pertinent for the monetarily poor. Weighing temporal riches against eternal riches reveals that our priorities ought to be on the invisible and spiritual (2 Cor. 4:16-18). →
- e. What is seen is unreliable and fleeting but what is unseen viz. the revelation of the Gospel is certain and everlasting **Further Study** in the letter see e.g. 2:4; 3:16; 4:3, 10, 19; 5:5; 6:12.

5. Security (20)

- a. Scripture continuously promises security for those who trust the LORD yet such promises have been misapplied. Ps. 91 in the OT and 2 Thes. 3:3 in the NT but we are promised persecution and even martyrdom e.g. Mat. 10: 16-33!!! What is secure is our salvation in

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<sup>14</sup> Gk. παρέχω; here “to grant or provide” (also of God in Acts 17:31); see 1:4 for “to promote”; Titus 2:7 “to show.”

<sup>1</sup> Towner, P. H. (2006). *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (p. 426). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

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Christ thus we have been commanded to secure the message from heresy so that others come to the knowledge of truth (2:4).

- b. That which is secure in Christ has been entrusted “deposited” to us. This is at least the fourth charge to Timothy to uphold the truth and dispel the apostasy (see 1:3-7, 18-19; 4:6-11; 6:13-16). “The imperative (lit. “keep the deposit”) is a metaphor, drawn from common life, reflecting the highest kind of sacred obligation in ancient society, namely, being entrusted with some treasured possession for safe-keeping while another is away.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. By continuously rebuking the heresies and promoting the Gospel, Timothy was securing his salvation and that of others (4:16).
  - d. It should not be any surprise that at least a half dozen mentions of such false teaching is mentioned in this brief letter and that the other epistles (all of Jude) are littered with such warnings. **Further Study: Continual Warnings**
  - e. If it seems like I mention it too much it is only because I teach the Bible exegetically! Those who say we ought not to often mention such negative topics neither grasp the stakes or do not bother preaching the balance of the full counsel of God. There is a reason Jesus warns of hell much more than affirming heaven’s entrance and bliss.
  - f. We cannot hold fast the deposit “committed to [our] trust” if we do not condemn the fallacies and avoid the babblings of false knowledge (Col. 2:8).
6. Apostasy (21)
- a. Heaven forbid we end on a negative verse. Paul did just that.
  - b. Many “profess” Christ as Lord etc. yet they stuff the skin of their profession with the substance of their heresy. Anyone can profess Christ but we must live the “good confession” of Christ (contrast of this verse and vv. 12-13).
  - c. The remedy for the negativity is the Word! The previous verse: “Guard,” not encase or store away as if it is a delicate, fragile Gospel, but guard with the Sword of the Spirit advancing forward with the “Word of Truth” which is an anvil to all the broken hammers which have futilely attempted to crack it! Isa. 55:11.
  - d. John MacArthur ended his commentary on 1 Timothy with listing how we fulfill such a charge as he gave to Timothy with our relationship with the Word. What follows is a similar list:
    - i. We must have a saving knowledge of the Word (1 Tim. 2:4 cf. Jn. 5:24).
    - ii. We learn to love the Word (Job 23:12; Ps. 119 e.g. v. 97).
    - iii. We must abide in the Word (1 Jn. 2:14; Jn. 8:31 cf. Jn. 15).
    - iv. We must obey the Word (Jn. 14:15).
    - v. We must proclaim the Word (2 Tim. 4:2).
    - vi. We must defend the Word knocking down the fallacious arguments added to or opposed to it (Jude 3; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Cor. 10:4).
    - vii. We must continually learn and be transformed by the Word 2 Tim. 2:15; Ro. 12:1-2).

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<sup>2</sup> Fee, G. D. (2011). [\*1 and 2 Timothy, Titus\*](#) (p. 160). Baker Books.

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PC: The truest treasure is Christ. The riches of this world and the promises of the philosophies of knowledge can distract us or derail us from the riches and wisdom of God in Christ. When it all comes down to the core, either one trusts in the eternal Word or the temporal world. The Day of Judgment is approaching and the treasures of this world are passing; thus we need eternal security and can have everlasting prosperity beyond that which this world could conceive. It all hinges on our relationship with the eternal, righteous, transformative, loving, and almighty Word. This faith we must guard by faith as it is founded and confirmed by God’s own testimony!

**Further Study:**

Continual Warnings: again see Acts 20:29-35 re: continuous warnings of the false teachers.