

Expanded Report: Instructions for the Rich (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Prologue: The Right Use of Wealth for God's Purposes

As the family gathered for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to 1 Timothy 6:17-19. In this passage, Paul gives specific instructions to those who are wealthy, urging them to remain humble, generous, and focused on eternal riches rather than material wealth. Paul teaches that wealth is not an end in itself but a tool to be used for good works, to bless others, and to further God's Kingdom. The wealthy are reminded that true treasure is not found in the fleeting comforts of this world but in the eternal life that is found in Christ. Paul emphasizes that wealth should be used for God's purposes, not for personal indulgence or self-centeredness.

"Tonight, we're going to talk about how the rich should view their wealth," Ryan said. "Paul teaches that wealth is not bad, but how we use it matters. It should be used for good works and to serve others, not just for our own enjoyment."

Ariel, curious about how wealth can be used for good, asked, "So, Paul is saying that we should use the things we have to help others and honor God?"

"Yes," Ryan nodded. "Paul urges those with wealth to be generous, humble, and focused on using their resources to make a difference in the world. This teaches us that wealth is a responsibility, not just a blessing."

Alice, hugging Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, asked, "Does that mean we can share our toys and things with others, too?"

"That's exactly right, Alice," Yaya smiled. "Just as adults are called to share their wealth, we can also share the things we have with others in need, whether it's a toy, time, or a kind word."

Key Teachings: Humility, Generosity, and Eternal Riches

1. The Call for Humility and the Right Attitude Toward Wealth

1 Timothy 6:17

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

- **Humility in Wealth:**

Ryan explained, "Paul begins by warning those who are wealthy not to be 'highminded'—meaning proud or arrogant because of their wealth. Wealth can easily lead to a sense of superiority or entitlement, but Paul teaches that all wealth ultimately comes from God."

Ariel asked, "So, we shouldn't think we're better than others just because we have more?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "We are all equal in God's eyes, and wealth doesn't change that. Our worth is found in Christ, not in how much money or possessions we have."

- **Trusting in God, Not Wealth:**

Ryan continued, “Paul also cautions against putting our trust in riches, as they are ‘uncertain.’ Wealth can be lost, stolen, or fade away, but our trust should be in God, who provides everything we need. True security comes from Him, not from the things we possess.”

Yaya added, “When we trust in God for our needs, we learn to be content with what He provides. Wealth should never replace God as our source of hope and security.”

2. Wealth Should Be Used for Good Works

1 Timothy 6:18

“That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.”

- **Generosity and Good Works:**

Ryan emphasized, “Paul instructs the wealthy to be ‘rich in good works.’ This means that their wealth should be used not for selfish indulgence, but to bless others and do good in the world. Whether it’s helping the poor, supporting the church, or investing in causes that advance God’s Kingdom, wealth should be a tool for doing good.”

Ariel asked, “So, instead of using our money just to buy things for ourselves, we should use it to help others?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The more we have, the more we are able to give and help others. Paul is teaching that wealth isn’t for hoarding—it’s for sharing.”

- **Willingness to Share:**

Ryan continued, “Paul says that the wealthy should be ‘ready to distribute’—this means they should have an open hand, willing to share what they have with those in need. It’s not just about giving a little, but being generous and actively looking for ways to bless others.”

Yaya added, “When we share what we have, we reflect God’s love and generosity. He has blessed us, and we are called to be a blessing to others in return.”

3. Focusing on Eternal Riches

1 Timothy 6:19

“Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

- **Eternal Investment:**

Ryan explained, “Paul teaches that by being generous and using wealth for good, the wealthy are ‘laying up a good foundation’ for the future—meaning they are investing in eternal rewards. When we use our wealth for God’s purposes, we are storing up treasure in heaven, which is far more valuable than anything we can accumulate on earth.”

Ariel asked, “So, when we use what we have to help others and serve God, we’re storing up treasure in heaven?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Every act of generosity and kindness done for God’s glory has eternal significance.”

- **True Riches Are Found in Christ:**

Yaya added, “The best treasure is not found in our bank accounts or possessions, but in our relationship with Christ. When we invest in His Kingdom, we are laying hold of eternal life and treasures that will never fade away.”

4. The Key Teaching: Wealth Should Be Used for God’s Purposes, Not Personal Indulgence

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of this passage is that wealth is a tool to be used for God’s purposes, not for personal indulgence. Paul urges the rich to be humble, generous, and focused on eternal riches. Wealth can easily become an idol, but when used for good works and shared with others, it becomes a way to honor God and store up treasures in heaven. True wealth is found in using what God has entrusted to us to bless others and advance His Kingdom.

Ryan summarized, “Paul is showing us that the purpose of wealth isn’t to serve ourselves, but to serve others and to honor God. The more we focus on using our resources for His glory, the more we experience the true richness of life in Christ.”

Practical Applications: Using Wealth for God’s Purposes

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their daily lives:

1. **Being Generous with What We Have:**

Ariel suggested, “We can look for ways to help others, like donating clothes or sharing our toys with kids who don’t have as much.”

Alice added, “I can also share my snacks or help someone who needs it, even if it’s something small.”

2. **Trusting God for Our Needs:**

Ryan encouraged them, “We can learn to be content with what we have, trusting that God will always provide for our needs. When we’re not focused on getting more, we can enjoy the blessings we already have.”

Yaya added, “And we can teach others to be content, too, by showing them how God has provided for us.”

3. **Investing in Eternal Treasures:**

Yaya reminded them, “We can focus on things that have eternal value, like loving others, serving in the church, and sharing the Gospel. These are the things that matter forever.”

Ryan encouraged them, “Every time we use our resources to advance God’s Kingdom, we are storing up treasure in heaven.”

Takeaway: Using Wealth to Honor God and Serve Others

As the family reflected, Yaya shared a story about a time when her church helped a family in need. “When we had some extra resources, we gave them to a family who was struggling. It wasn’t just money, but also our time and prayers. Seeing the difference it made in their lives reminded me how much more fulfilling it is to help others than to keep everything for ourselves.”

Ariel smiled, “So, when we use what we have to help others, we’re doing something that lasts forever?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and that’s the true joy of generosity. We’re not just giving material things; we’re giving hope and sharing God’s love.”

Key Points Summary

1. The Responsibility of the Wealthy:

- Wealth should be used for God’s purposes, not for self-indulgence. Those who are rich in this world are called to be generous, humble, and focused on eternal riches.

2. Generosity and Good Works:

- Wealth is a tool to do good works and bless others. Believers are called to share what they have and use their resources to advance God’s Kingdom.

3. Eternal Investment:

- True riches are found in Christ and in using wealth for eternal purposes. By investing in God’s Kingdom, believers are laying up treasure in heaven that will never fade away.
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Key Verse:

“That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute.” (1 Timothy 6:18)

This passage teaches that wealth should not be hoarded or used for selfish gain but should be invested in good works, shared with others, and used to glorify God. Generosity

and humility reflect the heart of a true follower of Christ, who is focused on eternal riches rather than earthly treasures.