

## GREAT GAIN - Part 2



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9 June 2024

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### **Key verses: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 NKJV**

#### **Introduction**

##### **Last week:**

- Why is money so important to God?
- Mammon as our enemy
- The distraction and foolishness of materialism
- The devastating impact of the love of money / the desire for riches / materialism
- Our relationship with money should reflect: **Contentment, Integrity, Generosity, Eternity**
- Contentment is key
- A simple lifestyle – with purpose!
- Godliness with contentment is great gain
- Contentment is:
  - Being happy with what has been given to us by God
  - Being happy with the place in life where God has positioned us

**Generosity** and **Eternity** are our big themes for today.

#### **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich (full / fully resourced) 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. <sup>18</sup>Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

Paul addresses some comments to the rich.

Who do you think of as rich?

- Our own situation is often our reference point
- Let's also think globally
- Food and clothing are important (see v.8) – be content with these
- What about having a home? a car?
- Let these verses speak to **you** today

When we zoom out to a global perspective, we are wealthy.

Consider us today: our church has the full spectrum; those who are struggling, who have just enough and who have extra.

When scripture speaks, don't think it speaks to your neighbour – it is speaking to YOU! Your money, your wealth, your situation.

## **1. How to view money (v17):**

- Don't be possessed by what you possess.
- No room for pride.
- Don't put your trust and confidence in your money.
- Money is very unreliable.
- Our trust must be in God (the living God!) – this is a better security
- God is generous towards us
- God supplies for our enjoyment (as a father would for a child; not to preserve the family image, but for the child's pleasure.)

## **2. How to use money (v18):**

- Use it to do good (not selfish or evil)
- Be 'rich' in good works (a lot of good works)
- Be generous – give a lot!
- Share with others

Generosity demonstrated in 4 practical ways: Tithes / Offerings / Missions / Mercy

Tithes – giving 10% of income

Offerings – other giving

Missions – giving to people (missionaries), ministries, causes

Mercy – giving to neighbour, family member, community, those in need

Refer to the CCA Grace giving booklet: we are no longer under Old Testament laws re finance. Let us not view tithing from a legalistic point of view, but as a discipline and a habit.

### **This is not why I tithe:**

- Legal requirement
- Get God off my case
- Freedom for 90%
- See myself as incredibly generous to God - huge blessing guaranteed

### **This is why I tithe:**

- Gratitude
- Acknowledging God as the source
- Healthy discipline; not random; always giving something back to God
- Keeps focus away from self (even in crisis situations)
- Initiates a lifestyle of generosity

God always puts His focus on the heart.

**Build our lives around our decision to be generous. Build your financial world around Generosity.**

It's a mindset and heart situation. No strings attached giving.

**Eternity: Generosity is storing up... for eternal life.** There is an eternal aspect to the way we handle finances now.

### **3. How to preserve money:**

- Store up treasure in heaven (Matt.6:19-21)
- Invest in heaven
- Focus on eternal reward (Matt.19:21-30)
- Generosity will be repaid eternally
- Heavenly 'reward' is one of the great themes of scripture

#### **Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup>"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;<sup>20</sup> but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also.**

- Invest in heaven
- Focus on Eternal reward

#### **Matthew 19:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and **you will have treasure in heaven**; and come, follow Me."

<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- Generosity will be repaid eternally.

Michael Eaton comments on this verse: 'The way in which we have used our possessions will be a main item on the agenda of judgment day. Generosity will be rewarded.'

Many people put aside money for their earthly future; Paul says we should consider our eternal future. Invest funds now in a way that they will build something worthwhile in eternal glory. Generosity will be repaid eternally.

'Reward' is one of the great themes of scripture.

### **4. Some eternal reward scriptures:**

- At the day of judgment, God will render to each one according to his deeds (Rom.2:6; Prov.24:11)
- God's servants will be rewarded at the time of judgment (Rev.11:18)
- When you bless the poor, you will be repaid at the resurrection (Luke 14:14)
- On that day if your works pass the test/endure you will receive a reward (1 Cor.3:14)
- Jesus will return and reward each one according to his works (Matt.16:27)
- Rejoice when you are persecuted, because your reward in heaven is great (Luke 6:23)

Clearly there are rewards: returns on our current investment in eternity (invest in eternity now; enjoy returns for all eternity)

Not about the reward of sonship = salvation / but the reward for stewardship.

### Thoughts on Differing Rewards as mentioned in these verses:

Our works done as stewards will one day be evaluated by our Master. He will reward us accordingly. Works worthy of reward will be those done with faithfulness and right motives.

If this is true, then what I do with my money and possessions now will affect my eternal experience in heaven.

Jesus was motivated by eternal reward; Paul was unashamedly motivated by the prospect of eternal reward. Believing slaves were encouraged to serve well with an expectation of eternal reward.

Rewards in heaven glorify God and provide us with joy, peace, and wonder as we consider God's work in us and through us.

Rewards in heaven are the completion of our earthly story, and those rewards will be eternally satisfying (Psalm 16:11).

When Jesus is our treasure, we will commit all our resources—our money, our time, our talents—to His work in this world.

### **Concluding questions:**

- Is Jesus really Lord over all your resources?
- Would you be willing to change the way you use money?
- How active are you in tithes and offerings, missions and mercy?
- How much of your confidence regarding the future lies in your financial reserves?
- Have you ever considered investing money for eternal reward?

These are the challenges we face as disciples of Jesus.

Let's not avoid them.

Let's have the conversation.

Then - Let's go that 1 step further, and practise whatever He says!