

## American Gods: Money

### 1 Timothy 6:17-19

### Bulletin Notes

*<sup>17</sup>As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

See...

riches as uncertain

God as generous

time as short

Money loses its grip when the Giver outweighs the gifts.

### Looking Back

If an alien were to covertly invade and observe our way of life in America, he or she would almost certainly believe that money was the most important thing to us. So much of human behavior and decision-making is driven by desires for, concerns about, or allegiance to MONEY. To believe that Christians are immune to this influence would be incredibly naïve. Our relationship to money is in constant need of attention according to Jesus and the teaching of the New Testament. So, how are we to relate to money? How do we keep it from getting its claws in and around our hearts? 1 Timothy 6:17-19 helps show us the path.

## Thinking It Through

agree|disagree, consider|contemplate

*"Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him." C.S. Lewis*

*"Wealth has some pretty powerful side effects. If wealth were an over-the-counter medicine, there would be bold warnings printed on the packaging. Warning: May cause arrogance. While taking this medicine, extra precaution should be taken not to offend people." Andy Stanley*

*"Man is born with hands clenched; he dies with them wide open." Line from the Jewish Talmud*

*"My experience was that the less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become." Howard Taylor*

## Working It Out

1. Read 1 Tim. 6:17-19. What do you notice? What words or ideas are repeated? What do you think is the main point of this text?
2. Do you have a hard time seeing yourself as "rich"? Why do you think we almost always assume that people with more than us are the rich ones?
3. Money and possessions can make us haughty or proud (v. 17). How have you seen this to be true? (either in your own life or the lives of other people)
4. How does seeing God as generous (v. 17) make a difference when it comes to how we view our resources?
5. In v. 18-19, what seems to be Paul's primary concern for the rich? What does he want *for* them?
6. This text invites us to see riches as uncertain, God as generous, and time in this present age as short.

Which of these three areas are you in most need of a vision "adjustment" right now?

7. What would it look like this week for you to embrace that God is better, more valuable, and more satisfying than His gifts? (everything He's provided for us to enjoy)
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