

Theme: Our "riches" are stored up through "good works," not through good "things" that remain in earth's grasp. Generosity leads to treasure that will elude all those who strive to hold onto God's good gifts here, whether those riches are physical or spiritual.

Background: The last section of 1 Timothy? Battle cry!

Introduction: I am at war, and it is on my own doorstep. Where do we find contentment? In the things of the world, or in the sacred deposit we have been given?

I. Enjoy God's Good Gifts (17b)

- A. He richly provides
 - 1. Don't get the wrong impression (6:9, 10)
 - 2. Not called to life of the ascetic (4:3)
- B. For us to enjoy (4:3, 4)
 - 1. An expression of God's goodness (6:17b)
 - 2. Not to be abused

NOTE: Prosperity/wealth is not shameful or sinful. The wealthy are not universally wicked.

II. Trust the Giver, Not the Gifts (17a)

- A. Two dangers (Sinful attitudes)
 - 1. Pride! - Sense of self-importance
 - 2. Trusting in wealth
 - a. In the culture - trusting in the gifts, not the Giver
 - b. In the church?
 - 1) Want to have enough to provide for your household (5:8)
 - 2) Lord uses the labor of our hands to provide for necessities
- B. Untrustworthy riches
 - 1. They don't last!
 - 2. We came with nothing; we leave with nothing (6:7)

III. Giving Demonstrates Trust!

- A. The command to be rich! (18)
 - 1. We are *all* to be rich!
 - 2. Rich in *giving*
 - a. If we trust God - we are ready to give it away!
 - b. Proverbs 11:24
- B. Giving: The antidote to materialism
 - 1. Striving for a lifestyle of giving
 - 2. Generosity is encouraged!
 - a. Mark of the early church
 - b. Needs to be mark of church *today*!
 - 1) We give our money
 - 2) We give ourselves!

NOTE: Good works need to be personal. They can't always be from a distance. The Savior's good works, His generosity, was not in the abstract - it was in person.

- 3. The Savior's giving was *personal* (2 Corinthians 8:9)

IV. Invest in Eternity (19)

- A. Earthly treasure - a poor investment - It all rusts and rots and is eaten up before you

(Matthew 6:19-21, 33)

B. Lasting treasure

1. That cannot rust, be eaten up, or stolen away
2. Acts of justice, mercy, faith, hope, love
3. The truth of God's work and living Word

V. Guard the Deposit

A. A sacred trust

1. A *deposit*?
 - a. May not be all there is
 - b. Given to someone trustworthy
2. *This* deposit?
 - a. 1:11 - "the gospel of the glory of the blessed God"
 - b. 1:15 - "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

B. Guarded through giving

1. He gives it away!
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. Mark 10:45
2. Stay on course!
Giving away what has been entrusted to us (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)

C. By the grace of God

1. It is by grace that this fight will be won
2. Grace be with you *all!*
 - a. That grace is not just Timothy's strength and power – it is ours as well!
 - b. We do not fight alone.

THEREFORE: Guard the deposit entrusted to you – by giving yourself and it away. Grace be with you all.