

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. (1 Timothy 6:20)

I. The Christian Rich (vv. 17-19)

- a. Wealth and poverty are relative terms and they cannot be neatly defined in every context.
- b. Among the poor some are poorer than others, and among the wealthy some are wealthier than others. In every culture there is a recognized difference between them. (Rom 10:12; Gal 3:28)
- c. Paul does not direct the rich to deprive themselves of their riches. Instead, he gives negative and positive instruction.
- d. *The dangers of being rich:*
 1. The wealthy are exposed to pride – *Instruct those who are rich in this present word not to be arrogant.* Wealth often leads to vanity, self-importance and a focus on possessions.
 2. The rich tend to have a false security. *Instruct the rich...no to put their hope in wealth.* Superficially, wealth seems secure, but it too is uncertain. Jesus warned that our treasures on earth are susceptible to moths, rust and burglars. (Matt 6:19)
- e. Paul teaches the object of our trust is not a *thing* but a Person (Jesus Christ), not wealth but God.
- f. We also are called to be stewards of what God gives. *God, richly provides us with everything.* Therefore, we are to manage our blessings. God gives us wisdom and discernment for giving.
- g. The duties of the rich: *The rich are to be rich in good deeds.*
 1. They are to be generous and willing to share (v.18) in order to meet needs and to promote good causes, in doing so, they will be imitating God.
 2. Timothy must seek to develop in the rich a sense of proportion.
- h. Since God is a generous giver, His people should be generous too.

II. A Deposit Worth Its Weight in Gold

- a. A *deposit (paratheke)* referred to something that had been given to someone for safe-keeping.
- b. Here the valuable concerned is faith in the Word of God.
- c. Timothy was entrusted with the teaching that God revealed to Paul and the other apostles.
- d. It was his responsibility to make sure that it was kept free from any additions or subtractions.
- e. This same challenge has been passed on to Christians as we battle with the mindset of the 21st century.
- f. The answer to every objection against the Bible is the Bible.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Church leaders/officials should not order anyone to give money to a particular area of ministry, but they should be in relationship to influence giving.
- b. A fifth of the world's population. (Deut 15:11; Mark 14:7) God often blesses us through the giving of others.