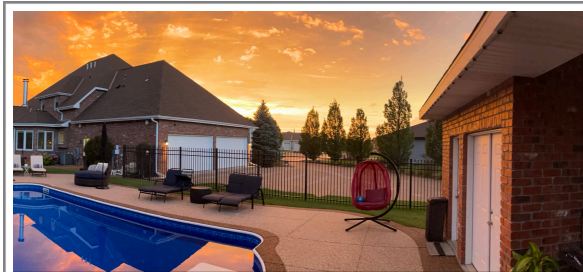


It is for our enjoyment that our giving-God richly gives.

In contrast to the fleeting hopes (many) that riches offer, put all your hope (singular) on the One who delivers extravagantly.

How are we to think about money? What are we supposed to do if we have it? Is money evil? Paul makes the argument in 1 Timothy 6 that it is a tool for good, and it awakens us to better treasure that is lasting hope in the giving-God.

What things are we to flee, v10-11? In verse 11 there is the command to flee these things plural. There is this hidden passion for money that is under all kinds of evil popping up. It is not just one evil. Flee the love and craving of money. It is not having money that we flee. It is the love of money whether you have it or not. You do



1 Timothy 6:10-11

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (RGF-LSG)

not have to be rich to have this root under the surface permeating the evils in your life.

What does craving-love of money look like? Its the “I must have it. I love it. I want more. I am more because of it. I control my future because I have it. I have more than you, therefore I am more valuable or even better than you. I day-dream about having more to be more and do more and have more. It captures my attention and affection.”

Why is this love and craving destructive? Whether you have money or not, this craving kills because two things happen: you drift away slowly lost from what really matters, and you get “pangs.” “Pangs” has been defined as a sudden feeling of mental or emotional distress or longing.¹ Instead of getting satisfaction and peace you get pangs that disseminate in your life. Then because this idol does not deliver what it promised, you have to live with that fact that you did this to

you. You did these pangs you have.

Instead what are we to pursue when we flee this root? You are a child of God. That is who you are. Flee the love of money, and love something else. Become who you are. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Righteousness is perfection of holiness deposited to our account by faith in Christ, and this righteousness is from God (Phil. 3:9). Because you have this, act in accordance with that.

What if you do have money and do not love and crave it, how are you supposed to THINK about money, v17? What is money? Money is both balance sheet and income statement. Ultimately wealth is net wealth or referred to as equity or capital. Its what’s left over after liabilities are paid off. Often it is gained through high earning power or cash flow or inheritance. Wealth is not bad nor even neutral, but a tool by God for



1 Timothy 6:17

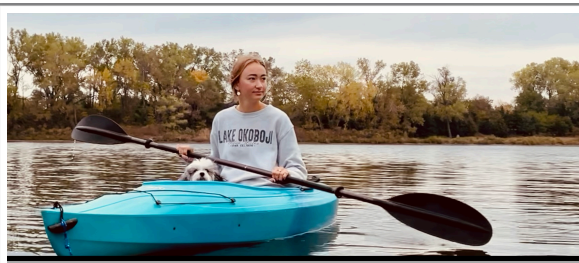
As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

tremendous good. But how do we think about it? Paul gives us four truths:

1. Being rich does not mean you will be rich in the next age.

This is a temporary age, v17. This present age is the “overlapping kingdom” of the already-and-not-yet-fully. Are you storing up treasures in the kingdom of God where nothing rusts (Matthew 6)?

2. Do not to be haughty. You can’t say, “I did this. Why can’t you?” Haughty is the pride that says “I am not dependent on God as I was made, but I am now like



1 Timothy 6:18-19

They are
to do good,
to be rich in good works,
to be generous and ready to share,
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.

Lake Ventura, birthday adventure
October 2021

God, independent, and can do the path I want.”

3. Do not have misplaced, groundless, empty, bold hope.

Your 401k is not guaranteed by anything, and it is one war or cyber attack from being pennies on the dollar. You are not a god, so your mist of perceived, protected independence will crash.

4. Rather in contrast of being haughty, love your dependence on God, and that he is your sure hope. WHY do we know this hope is not groundless? It is based on the character and nature of just who this God is, and he is a “prodigal” God - lavish. What is the opposite of uncertainty of riches here? The stable God, the one who is lavish for our enjoyment.

Do we provide for our needs? No, that is tied to uncertainty. We are

passive here. It is God who provides. His model of providing is not skimpy; he richly provides and does so not just to meet a need but for our enjoyment!

What if you do have money and do not love and crave it, what are FOUR things you are supposed to DO with it, v18-19?

What ARE we to do with this good tool of wealth? Are you just to hoard it mainly for pleasures? Are you supposed to repent and get rid of it? Should you not try to make the capital bigger next year? How do you respond to someone accusing you that you are motivated by multiplying wealth and thus must not be content? Is it wrong to keep revenue linear and work to exponentially grow it? If you are driven by loving money, the answer here is yes.

1. They are to do good. There is a way to steward and grow this tool designed for good. It can be part of our vocation as our reasonable act of worship (Romans 12). Do not build your wealth by not paying others (James 4) and not by shameful gain. Do good.

2. They are to be rich in good works not mainly profit or equity. Not just do good, but be

RICH in many, many good things you do.

3. They are to be generous. In the Old Testament pattern, we can’t “harvest the corners of our field” reserved for the poor. Is tipping 5% generous, or is it a way to grab every corner of your field? If God gives lavishly to us, are we known in a similar vein of lavishness?

4. They are to be ready to share. You have to be like the cement truck, full of cement looking for that next job to pour out or else it will go bad and harden and ruin everything. You can’t say one day I will give money away when I have all I need. You can’t say “I’ll give later.” There is a now element here looking for needs.

Ironically, what results from being generous like this?

1. We KNOW we have real savings NOW. Ironically, doing good with money is not like just expensing it or spending it from an income statement, and it is gone. Rather its like spending it to a savings account on a balance sheet that matters. This stores up real treasure. The foundation metaphor is used here to give you a parable or picture of a building built to last. The word “as” is not a

mistake. I have a foundation better than what it took to build the Empire State Building now almost 95 years ago.

2. We are free to grab that which is REALLY life NOW. What IS life? Is it more money? It is shalom and peace with God and knowing him and loving others. I will not be encumbered or trapped or held back to grab that which is truly real life because my white-knuckled hands are wrapped around that which is not life. Ironically money can be a major roadblock to attaining that which is truly life. You can only grip one thing. You HAVE real life and real value and real treasure now, you have God. And HOW did you get that? Christ left the wealth of heaven for me to redeem me by becoming broke, and that melts my heart and drives my generosity too (2 Corinthians 8:9). If God is lavish to me in Christ, and he is the root of my hope, I can live in overflow generously like that.

End Notes: 1. Dictionary.com, accessed 7/5/24. **Author:** Eric Blick and his wife Jodi reside in Fremont, Nebraska, and have three adult children and one son-in-law, plus one son already waiting in joy and fellowship with Christ for these new heavens and earth to be completed. Connect at blicksblog.org, subscribe to Jodi’s *Fighting for Joy* podcast in iTunes or Spotify, or follow them on Instagram. Printed 3Q24.