

Series: Generous Living

Message: In The Midst Of Prosperity, Part 2

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

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Generous Living in the midst of prosperity is to recognize prosperity as a formidable threat to personal freedom and generosity as its greatest ally.

The Dangers of Prosperity vs.17

1 Timothy 6:17

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Fenelon, The Royal Way Of The Cross

The only good point of worldly prosperity is one to which the world is blind – its cross! An elevated position does not save us from any of the ordinary afflictions common to men; indeed, it has its own special trials. ...

God turns the good things which the world covets into trouble and toil, and allows those whom He has raised to earthly grandeur to be an example to others. It is His will to perfect their cross by concealing it beneath the most splendid worldly riches, in order to show what little value there is in prosperity.

Surely it is a blessed thing to find one's purgatory in what seems a paradise to the worldly. In seeking that false paradise, many, too often, forfeit the hope of true paradise after this brief life ends.

The one real treasure of great seeming prosperity is its hidden cross.

The Safeguards Against Pride And Misplaced Priorities vs. 18

1 Timothy 6:18

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

1. Good Deeds
2. Generosity

1) The Legitimately Under-resourced

Proverbs 28:27

²⁷ He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

2) One's Extended Family

1 Timothy 5:8

⁸ If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Proverbs 13:22

²² A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

3) The Local Storehouse

MOVIE "Defense"

James 5:3

Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

Management

2 Samuel 24:24

But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

Masters

Mathew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.