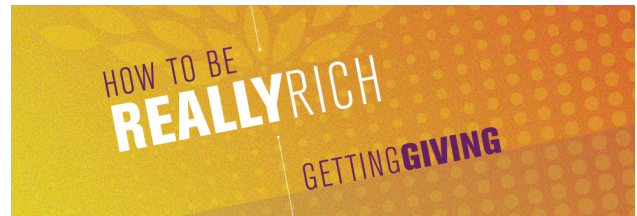


Weekly Message Study Guide

ChristChurch.us/SmallGroups



July 18 | Pastor Dan Meyer

1 Timothy 6:6-19

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Getting Started

- On a scale of 1 (Not that important) to 10 (VERY Important), how important is money to you? Please share.
- In your own spheres of influence where do you see a love of money effecting people's lives?
- Why do you think people are or are not content with what they have?
- What went through your mind and heart when you heard Pastor Dan say, "A quick survey of our clothes and cars, our jewelry and technology, suggests that most of us are enjoying a standard of living higher than most people in history or in other nations of this world today"?

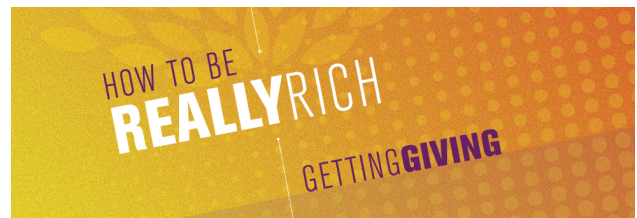
Read 1 Timothy 6:17 - "Set their Hope on the UNCERTAINTY of riches".

Pastor Dan categorizes these three attributes as the uncertainty of riches. For each one share how you have experienced it and why.

- **Flow:** It can be a mighty stream sometimes and, then, quite suddenly stop flowing or dry up to a trickle.
- **Fruit:** It's cliché to say that money doesn't buy happiness, but it is true. As the Garden of Eden story tells us, one of the Serpent's biggest lies is that you can spell happiness, "M-O-R-E."
 - How do you escape the cry of "more-more-more"? Discuss what your guardrails are on how you decide how to "lay treasures in heaven."
- **Force:** It can drive us to think of ourselves as the Owner of life, instead of God who is. It can drive us to forget the call to be Stewards of the Master and push us instead to bury more and more resources in ourselves
- These are possibilities of motivation but they can lead us to underlying beliefs. If you are honest (and this is extremely difficult to discern with our materialistic culture screaming in your ears) talk about which of the above points impact you and how. What are you susceptible to? What do you need help to remember?
- We have this discussion today because we need to open the box to see the FORCE that worldly wealth has. It was powerful in Jesus time and it is powerful today.

Weekly Message Study Guide

ChristChurch.us/SmallGroups



Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Here we find Paul's caution to Timothy about the FORCE: the Love of money. Why is the "love of money" so motivating? Certainly there is nothing wrong with money—it is a medium of exchange, a convenience for commerce. Charles Barclay describes 5 dangers of "love of money":

- A thirst which can be insatiable
- It is founded on the illusion that it provides security: but what of security of health, escape from sorrow or death, or assurance of love?
- Loving money makes a man selfish—"more".
- Loving money leads to anxiety—what shall I do if I lose it?
- Loving money may lead to unscrupulous ways of getting it.
- Which of the above observations by Barclay is the Holy Spirit "poking" you about? Share what you are discerning. Don't worry you're not the only one being convicted and hesitant to share.

Pastor Dan specifically pointed out 1 Timothy 6:17 - *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain... in its flow and fruit and force...[Command them] to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

- *How would you demonstrate where your hope is? How do your material resources and finances play a part in that?*
- *What changes in your relationship with Jesus when you view God, as one who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment? How hard or easy is this to believe for you? What gets in the way of that?*

In summary of God's generous resolve through Jesus, Pastor Dan reminded us that Jesus said: **I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). I have taught you all that I have,** said Jesus to his disciples, **that my joy might be in you and your joy complete (John 15:11; 17:13).**

- Based on what we discovered today how do you define the abundant life? What are you doing today that takes you closer to that? What is getting in the way? Being more specific for each of the previous three questions will help you and your group a lot - it might even give you some ideas on how to shape your lives as you glean from one another.

Read 1 Timothy 6:18-19: Share or journal about one thing you can do this next week that shows you are living into the way of Jesus by storing your treasure in heaven and not falling into the snare of loving money.