



Your Stuff is not Your Stuff

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Listen! The health of both the national and global economies is deteriorating.

- **Tension:** What do we do in the face of these financial times?

Instructions for Rich People* from 1 Timothy 6:17-19:

- Do not be conceited:
- Do not fix your hope on the uncertainty of riches:
- Fix your hope on (the certainty of) God:
- Enjoy God's richly supplied gifts:
- Do good—be rich in good deeds—be generous—be ready to share:
- **The Result:** We store up for ourselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future and take hold of that which is life indeed.

Question: How can God tell us what to do with our own money?

Answer: He can tell us to do this because it isn't *our* money—it is *His* money. We are stewards and not owners. Our stuff is not our stuff.

- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- Psalm 24:1, 2
- Deut 8:18
- 1 Cor 4:7

Core Truth: As stewards of God's stuff He insists that we trust Him and that we use His stuff to help others.

Core Requirement: Stewards are expected to be faithful in the use of another's goods.
1 Cor 4:1, 2.

Eight "rubber-meets-the-road" practical financial actions: see back.

Think about this: tools sorted, oiled, and displayed or lost under the snow in the yard.

*Yes, this is us—we are rich people. We do not worry about whether we will eat today—we worry about getting a good table at our favorite restaurant.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth: As stewards of God’s stuff He insists that we trust Him and that we use His stuff to help others.

- **Sunday:** What is the evidence that you are a rich person? How is your GQ (gratitude quotient)? How is your HQ (humility quotient)?
- **Monday:** What is the evidence that you are trusting God? Trusting money?
- **Tuesday:** Are you convinced that you are the steward and that God is the Owner of all your stuff? Why or why not?
- **Wednesday:** What are the areas of your greatest faithfulness in the use of God’s money? What are the areas of your greatest unfaithfulness in the use of God’s money? (giving, supporting your family, helping others, enjoying God’s gifts, demonstrating inner/spiritual change in your life)
- **Thursday:** Are you convinced that everything you have is a gift from God—every last thing? Why or why not?
- **Friday:** What are your thoughts about the statement that “faithfulness is the core requirement of stewards?”
- **Saturday—Eight “rubber-meets-the-road” practical financial actions:**
 - Create and use a budget.
 - Create and use a debt elimination strategy.
 - Give generously.
 - Save something every month—preferably 10%.
 - Find and follow professional financial expertise.
 - Diversify your investments. Ecclesiastes 11:2
 - Go on a 1 to 6 month “spending fast.” Spending less is a far higher leverage action than trying to make more.
 - “Use it up. Wear it out. Make it do. Do without.” Amish Proverb.
- **Some key resources for financial help:**
 - www.crown.org for budgeting and biblical principles
 - www.generousgiving.org for giving motivation and guidance.
 - www.DaveRamsay.com for debt elimination and budgeting and planning.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.