

WORD

¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. **1 TIMOTHY 6:18,19**

In this chapter, Paul is reminding Timothy to stay away from false teachings, choose to be content, and fight the good fight of faith. He says that riches have a greater purpose—generosity—and material wealth doesn't matter, compared to who God is and what we have in Him. Material, temporal wealth will always fall short to the abundant, eternal treasure we have in Christ.

1 Temporal riches will fade.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal . . .” **MATTHEW 6:19**

The world teaches us to seek after wealth—a larger bank account, a bigger house, a better car, a fancier lifestyle . . . But Jesus said that these treasures on earth will not last. What does the Bible say about those who desire to be rich (1 Timothy 6:9)?

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2 Eternal treasures will remain.

“ . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” **MATTHEW 6:20**

Every day, we are either laying up treasures on earth or in heaven. As Christians, we are commanded to lay up treasures that will withstand time and trials. We can live in a way that pleases ourselves today, or we can live to please God—keeping eternity with Him in mind. What is in store for us who will fight the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 4:7,8)?

3 Eternal life is free.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **EPHESIANS 2:8,9**

Though the Bible teaches us to do good works, it is not to earn salvation or God’s favor. We can only be saved from our sin and have eternal life because of Christ’s finished work on the cross. What’s the difference between a gift and work? How did you respond to the gift of eternal life God offered you in Christ?

APPLICATION

- Do you understand what Jesus did for you on the cross? How will you respond to the truth that, in Christ, eternal life is free?
- Where do you lay up your treasures? What's one thing you will start doing differently this week so that you will lay up treasures in heaven?
- Do you live in light of the past, present, future, or eternity? How can you live today with eternity in mind?

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us so we can spend eternity with Him. Pray that you will have a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the gospel this week.
- Commit to please God and trust that He will reward you for seeking Him first. Pray that you will live for His pleasure and glory alone.
- Ask God to show you how you can be a blessing to others and have an eternal perspective in everything you do.



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