

Rules for rich people

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Let's say it together: "This doesn't apply to me...I'm not rich." I hate to be the one to tell you, but you ARE rich. We all are.

80% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 per day. In the USA, people who make less than \$18 per day are classified as living in extreme poverty while, globally, extreme poverty is defined as \$1.25 per day. The poorest 5% of the people in America make about the same as the richest 5% of the people in India.

If you live in America, you have been blessed by God. But what does that mean for us? Why has God been so good to us? Paul told Timothy that the proper response to God's favor is to "be rich in good works" and "to share with others." And there is a lavish blessing promised for all who do: "they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life."

But there is also an ominous warning attached.

For rich folk (like us), there is always a temptation to put our trust in the security that money provides. But Paul tells us that money is "unreliable," and that is certainly true in our day. God wants to be our source and He wants us to rely on Him.

An even tougher lesson is that God wants us to look to Him for our day-to-day fulfillment. Paul says that God, "richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment." Do we believe that? Is that enough for us?

The big lesson here is that we have been so blessed that there is tremendous opportunity for City Church to be "generous to those in need." If, individually, we'll see ourselves as enriched for a purpose, and, collectively, we join hands to Serve our City, there is just no telling what God might accomplish.

Pray

Heavenly Father, I delight in You, but I confess that I am inconsistent. In some seasons You are the most important thing in the world to me, and in others I forget that You are the source of all good gifts. Please continue to remind me that I bring You delight when I delight in You. I love You. Amen.

DAY 17
Wednesday, January 21st

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
