

# Jeff Bezos makes over \$11,000,000 an hour, lowest paid Amazon worker gets \$12

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*Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple*



# I Timothy

*Handling Treasures*

# 1 Tim. 6:17-21



1. Instructions to the Rich (17-19)
  - *Avoid This, Do This, Consider This*
2. Instructions to Timothy (20-21)
  - *Do This, Avoid This, Consider This*

# 1. To the Rich

- Those who *are* rich
  - Not: *who want to get rich* (6:9-10)
  - Ephesus was a prominent trade city
    - Temple of Diana – major tourist attraction
- *In this present world*
  - Material/temporal vs. spiritual/eternal
- Instruct – *charge* (see 6:13)



# 1. To the Rich

- Avoid This:

1. Conceit – *to think high*; proud

- Attitude of superiority over other men

- “The poor man utters supplications,  
But the rich man answers roughly.”  
(Prov. 18:23)



# 1. To the Rich

- Avoid This:

## 2. False Security

- Why fix your hope on *uncertainty*?

- “He who trusts in his riches will fall”  
(Prov. 11:28a)

- “For wealth certainly makes itself wings” (Prov. 23:5b)



# 1. To the Rich

- Do This:

1. Fix your hope on God

- He alone is sovereign, powerful, faithful, wise, immortal, holy (6:15-16)

- He is the rich Supplier

- All things for us to enjoy (see 4:3-4)



# 1. To the Rich

- Do This:

## 2. Do **good**/be rich in **good** works

- Do **good** – *benevolent, for another's benefit or advantage*
- **Good** works – *intrinsically good, right, noble, beautiful*
- “Use your wealth to richly bless others”



# 1. To the Rich

- Do This:

3. Be generous/ready to share

- The right *attitude*:

- Always prepared to give liberally

- Willing to associate with those in need

- It all comes from God; you are a steward of *His* resources



# 1. To the Rich

## • Consider This:

- You are investing for the future
  - Convert \$ to *spiritual treasure*
- You are living *the real life* now (see 6:12)
- Pursue godliness (6:11)
  - *It holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (4:8)*



## So What?

- Money is a tool to be used, not a god to be served
  - See Matt. 6:24; cf. Prov. 3:9-10
- Faithful with little, given more (Luke 16:1-15)
- Real life is found in loving, not hoarding (see Deut. 15:7-11; Prov. 11:25; 22:9)



## 2. To Timothy

- Do This:

- *Guard what has been entrusted to you (the treasure - 2 Tim. 1:13-14)*
- The whole *gospel* message (1:8-11):  
healthy doctrine, the faith, the truth,  
sound words of our Lord, doctrine  
conforming to godliness



## 2. To Timothy

- Do This:

- Lit: *guard the deposit*

- Protect it, like a soldier entrusted with the safekeeping of a king's treasure

- You are a steward

- Protect it, defend it, preserve its purity

- Pass it on (2 Tim. 2:2)



## 2. To Timothy

- Avoid This:

- Worthless distractions (see 1:3-7)

1. Profane, empty utterances

- False teaching is hollow lies (4:1, 7)

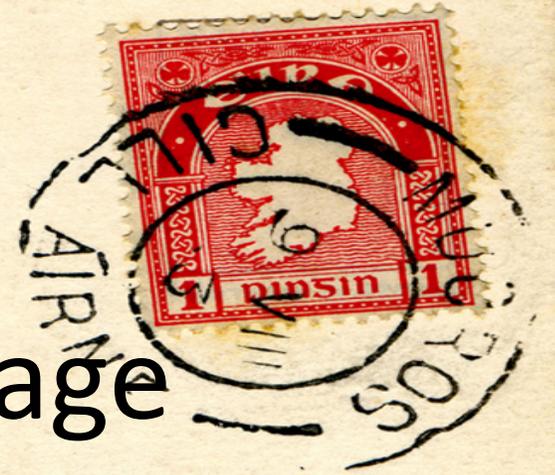
2. Opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”



## 2. To Timothy

- Consider This:

- The content of the gospel message (i.e. – *the faith*) is true
- The opposite of *true* is false
- Deviation from *the truth* means deviation from *the faith* into falsehood



## 2. To Timothy

- Consider This:

- Some may think they have superior 'knowledge' yet 'not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions' (1:7)
- Some may think they have superior 'knowledge' yet reject *the faith* (1:18-20)



## 2. To Timothy

- Consider This:

- Some may think they have superior 'knowledge' yet be 'paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons' (4:1)
- Some may think they have superior 'knowledge' yet actually be conceited and understand nothing (6:4)



## So What?

- Do I really understand what I have been entrusted with?
  - And that I will answer for it?
- Am I pursuing God's truth, or what is falsely called "knowledge"?
  - Am I willing to see the difference?



# Concluding Thoughts on 1 Timothy

- We must understand this:
  - God has spoken
  - What God has spoken is true
  - By faith, we must obey what God has said
    - Spiritual nourishment & health -> *real life*
    - Rejection of or deviation from the truth leads some away from God -> *death*



# Concluding Thoughts on 1 Timothy

- Paul's exhortation to Timothy:

- "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you." (4:16; cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4)



## Concluding Thoughts on 1 Timothy

- Someday, we will all stand before the Sovereign and Holy God to give a full accounting of our lives (Rom. 2:16; 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; cf. Matt. 16:24-27)
- Paul: “I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.” (Acts 20:26-27)



# Concluding Thoughts on 1 Timothy

- My pledge to you:
  - By God's grace, I will pay close attention to myself & to my teaching, and declare to you the whole purpose of God
  - By God's grace, may my progress be evident to all (4:15)

