

**Uncertain Riches**  
**“The Grace of Generosity”**

**Review:** Stewardship series concludes

1. If we don't have the money thing right we won't have the heart thing right.

***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 NKJV***

2. Because of how blessed we have been, much is expected of us.
3. This series about *The Uncertainty of Riches*

A Biblical Theme

***He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage. Proverbs 11:28 NKJV***

***Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven. Proverbs 23:5 NKJV***

4. Paul writing to Timothy about how material possessions are to be handled by believers. (Context of abuse for financial gain).
5. Two Keys:

- Contentment
- Generosity

Late week: The Crown of Contentment

- We are not called to poverty but we are called to be content (focus on permanent not temporary).
- Covetousness is the enemy of contentment (leads to destruction)
- Contentment's Crown—when we find our Christ-sufficiency—He is all I need!

Today: The Grace of Generosity

Generosity—Scripture has much to say about generous

— Great promise of blessing to the generosity

***Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. 3 The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. Psalms 41:1-3 NKJV***

— Generosity defines your experience

***There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. Proverbs 11:24-25 NKJV***

***But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6 NKJV***

— Those generous with mercy will be generous with material things

***"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:37-38 NKJV***

— Jesus was enthusiastic about generous giving

***And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. 3 So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." Luke 21:1-4 NKJV***

What is the profile of the generous?

That's what Paul outlines in these verses of 1 Timothy

**I. They have firm conviction rooted in the integrity and faithfulness of God.**

***Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17 NKJV***

A. They have no arrogance about their possession because they know that what they have is completely due to the grace of God. (He gives us richly all things).

1. Testimony of the Psalmist

***The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. Psalms 24:1 NKJV***

2. Witness of Job

***And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21 NKJV***

(ILL) Met some wealthy people—very unassuming—very generous—they understood God is the giver of all things

B. Their trust is grounded in the giver never the gift.

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17 NKJV***

(Uncertain Riches compared with giver)

C. They enjoy the blessings of God without anxiety because they trust His faithfulness

“... gives all things rightly to enjoy.”

(ILL) Some people never share or enjoy the blessings of God—too busy hoarding them.

***Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21 NKJV***

1. Wouldn't enjoy God's blessing
2. Hoarded it
3. 5 Talents/2/1

(ILL) Generous Giving—They enjoy and share what they have because they know it's not theirs in the first place.

**Trust God's integrity and faithfulness**

***Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:10-11 NKJV***

***Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:14-19 NKJV***

**II. They have a profound awareness of God's expectation and their sense of responsibility.**

***Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share***  
***1 Timothy 6:18 NKJV***

NOTE: God has not blessed me to hoard but to give.

**A. God has been generous to us—we must be generous to others in our giving**

**B. Three phrases:**

1. Do good—purposefully giving generously—Action
2. Ready to give—Attitude of preparation if there is a need —preparation
3. Willing to share—Sensitivity to God's leading if we need to respond—Attitude

**C. Generous people do good (what is right)**

1. Give faithfully
2. Give regularly
3. Support outreach
4. Support church that ministers to them

**D. Generous people are ready to give**

1. Someone has a need—your response
2. Church has a need—you are ready
3. Manages finances well—not deep in debt so that they can

**E. Generous people are willing to share—sensitive to the Holy Spirit**

(ILL) Valerie Skidmore

**III. They have determined that eternal wealth is more valuable than temporary wealth and pleasure.**

***Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 Timothy 6:19 NKJV***

*“For the time to come.”*

Compare to...

***Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17 NKJV***

*“Rich in this present age.”*

A. To give away riches is not to suffer loss but to lay up treasure in Heaven.

B. What I kept, I lost, what I gave away, I have.

*(ILL) Treasure in Heaven*

*Jewish Rabbis tell the story of man who had inherited great wealth—Monobaz*

*Good and generous man who gave away all his wealth during famine.*

*Villagers came and said, “your fathers had inherited from their fathers and you are going to waste it all?”*

*“My fathers laid up treasure below, I laid it up above. My fathers laid up treasure of Mammon I laid up treasure of souls. My fathers laid up treasure for this world I have laid them up for the world to come.”*

**C. Important Truths:**

1. Every time we could give and we do not lessens the treasure we lay up in Heaven.
2. Every time we give of what we have, increase the riches laid up in Heaven.
3. Wealth is not a sin—it is a responsibility—if it only enriches us then it is to our ruin, but if it enriches the kingdom, we become richer.

**Conclusion: 1 Timothy 6—Uncertain Riches**

— Over against materialism He set simplicity of lifestyle

— Over against asceticism He set the message of God’s creation

— Over against covetousness He set contentment

— Over against selfishness He set generosity

Both Jesus and Paul—one who accepted Christ by faith and received His grace said salvation must be evidenced with a life of generosity.

— It was encouragement, yes!

— But Paul made it clear it was necessary for eternal life!

***Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 NKJV***

*(ILL) Empty Success (D.L. Moody)*

*Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn't really matter.*