



Pledge Sunday 2 February 2025  
Giving – 1 Tim 6:17–19  
Small Group Notes

Why do people find the topic of money uncomfortable? What various things do you think might be under this discomfort?

**Read 1 Tim 6:17**

Why, do you think, Paul uses the word command? Do these verses apply to us? On Sunday it was said that people find it difficult to call themselves ‘rich’, or to identify as part of the upper class. Why do you think that might be?

Do you have a time when you have seen poverty in another country that you found troubling that you are willing to share?

Why is the end of verse 17, “who richly provides everything for our enjoyment”, important for this passage? How do we find the line between an obligation to help others in need and enjoying what God has provided?

**Read 1 Tim 6:17 again, this time pay attention to the ‘trap of wealth’**

Why is the influence money can have over a person’s heart dangerous?  
Why are we tempted to put our hope in wealth?

**Read 1 Tim 6:18**

How is this verse critical for addressing the problems we find in verse 17?

What do you think it would have been like for Timothy, as a young church leader, to be written this, in his culture, to challenge people that are both older and more wealthy? How does this verse get at the direction of a person’s life? How can we be more self-giving in a world that encourages us to be selfish?

What stands out to you in verse 18 about what our giving should look like?

**Read 1 Tim 6:19**

How would you describe the lack of margin we all experience in regard to our finances, time or energy? Why does this happen?

Companies compete, for their survival, for your attention and money. How can we be more resilient against their efforts?

Our homes are filled with things we don’t need, representing money that could have been better spent elsewhere. Why do you think that is?

Reading from the beginning of **Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front** by Wendell Berry

“Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay. Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your neighbours and to die.

And you will have a window in your head.

Not even your future will be a mystery any more. Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little drawer.

When they want you to buy something they will call you. When they want you to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor.”

(for those that want to the full poem can be found easily online)

***So how do we break this cultural influence? (4 things that can be powerful)***

### **1. Tithe**

How is tithing powerful in regard to reordering our hearts in regard to money? Why do people find it difficult? (Please handle this carefully as I don't want people to feel judged or be legalistic about tithing.)

### **2. Learn to Be Content**

Earlier in 1 Timothy 6 Paul talks about learning to be content. In a world that encourages discontent, God can help us find satisfaction with what we already have. What might this look like? How can we grow in this?

### **3. Become more aware of the needs of others**

We have many ways to be aware of products for sale. What if we could be as aware of the needs of others? How might this counteract the pull toward selfish living?

### **4. Become more aware of the coming age and invest wisely (verse 19)**

This comes up very clearly in verse 19 and contrasts with being focussed on this world in verse 17. How can we be more aware of the world to come, and put our money where it really makes a difference?

How can we be more heaven minded in how we live our lives?