

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Timothy 6:1-22

Lesson #29

The Dangers of Wealth

02/18/2018

There are two tests of a true disciple: **wealth** and **poverty**.

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth  
if you lost all your worldly accomplishments and acquisitions.

1

## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ  
ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ  
ch. 4-6

"walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Managing our <b>TONGUE</b> .   | • Speak the truth lovingly.   |
| 2. Managing our <b>TEMPER</b> .   | • Suffer offenses graciously. |
| 3. Managing our <b>TREASURE</b> . | • Share your stuff gladly.    |

2

What does the Scripture say about materiel wealth?



3

As a blessing from God be thankful for it.

As a stewardship in God's kingdom be responsible with it.



As a false messiah don't let it seduce you.

As a desensitizer to God, people, & your spiritual need don't let it blind you.

4

### 1 Timothy 6

"1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against. 2 And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. **Teach and preach these principles.**"

### What principles?

In this world, God's kingdom is not defined by or reflected in our outer social position or title.

5





**EWTN**  
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

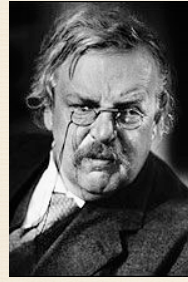
As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

“Power in the Kingdom of God is the freedom to love. I have that freedom and I do not need a position or a title to exercise that power.”

6

*James 1*

“9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”



G.K. Chesterton

**“Religion is the thing that makes the ordinary man feel extraordinary; it is an equally important truth that religion is the thing that makes the extraordinary man feel ordinary.”**

7

Richard John Neuhaus

“The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time.”



8

*1 Timothy 6*

“5 (Those who advocate a different doctrine) are men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

**Fake News #1 - Godliness will help us advance in the eyes of this world.**

“6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.”

**Fake News #2 - Material wealth is the key to security, significance, and serenity.**

9

Contentment comes from a **godly ordering** of desires.

10

“7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”

**Fake News #3 - The measure of a person is in what they accomplish and acquire.**

“9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.”

**Fake News #4 - To be true to ourselves we must follow our heart (passions).**

11



*Matthew 6*

“19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

12

“10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

**Fake News #5 - Material wealth comes with no spiritual risks.**

“11 But flee from these things, . . .”

**Fake News #6 - A disciple of Christ can manage a PASSION for material wealth.**

13

### How can I know if this is a problem for me?

1. How often do I **think** about my stuff?
2. How do I **respond** when I lose any of it?
3. Am I **preoccupied** with:
  - Thanking God for my stuff?
  - Being envious of what other's have?
  - Being critical of how others handle their stuff?
4. How much is my **mood** affected by the increase or loss of material stuff?
5. How do I react to **wasted** stuff?
6. Do I give special **respect** to the wealthy?

14

### What should I do about it?

1. First - **come clean**, admit I have this problem.
2. **Pray** for the Spirit to remind me daily of my true treasure.
3. **Prepare** to respond to trigger events.
  - Loss or waste of some stuff.
  - Dreaming about stuff.
  - Feeling envy or anger relating to stuff.
4. **Proactive** disciplines.
  - Share - tip generously, “waste some stuff”.
  - Ask friends to remind me when I slip.
  - Expect God to test me in this area.

15

Matthew tells the story of two rich young rulers.  
*Matthew 19:16-26*

One had great wealth to give to the other but the other first had to make room for it.

16

A paraphrase of *Proverbs 30:7-9*

“Lord, before I die I ask two things:

1. **That I handle truth well:**  
not receiving or spreading lies.
2. **That I handle treasure well:**  
not having so much that I don't sense my need for You and stray, or not having so little that I don't sense Your care for me and steal.”

17