

Checkpoints for Christ's Followers in America

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Introduction:

- A. Paul tells Timothy to instruct those who are r_____
 - 1. Paul and Timothy were w_____ travelers and so Paul was measuring wealth on a world-wide scale.
 - 2. Most people living in the U.S. are rich in comparison to people in other countries.
- B. Most of us have an a_____ (more than we actually need)
 - 1. I personally calculated that I could survive on \$1400 per month including optional insurances (medical, house).
 - 2. With an abundance of money comes both privileges and d_____.
- C. There are three checkpoints that Christ's followers in the U.S. should use in making sure they handle their wealth in a Christ-like manner.

Check your a_____ - whom do you glorify? (17)

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited

- A. Having an abundance of money can make a person _____ - *It is due to my hard work, my ingenuity...*
 - 1. America is the land of o_____ - that is why we have so many come to this country.
 - 2. Why do we have such opportunity? – because God has s_____ (remember the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4?)
- B. Make sure you have the attitude of g_____
 - 1. Thank God for what you have. He supplies us with all things to e_____ (see verse 17b).
 - 2. Pride gives you the glory, but thankfulness gives God the glory.

Check your a_____ - where do you place your hope? (17)

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not...to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God.

- A. Many falsely think that having some material thing will make them h_____ (certain car, game, a certain amount in the savings or retirement account, etc).
 1. Material things are t_____ (cars rust out, games get old).
 2. Material things are un_____ (emergencies happen, markets can crash).
 3. Depending on the uncertainty of riches is getting pretty l_____
- B. Set your sights high
 1. Hope in God is always c_____ because God always fulfills His promises.
 2. Examples of what we hope for that God has promised.
 - a. For Jesus's r_____ (Tit 2:13)
 - b. For people to be s_____ (Rev 5:9,10)
 - c. For God to work out adversity for our g_____ (Rom 8:28,29)
 3. If your hope is uncertain, you have not set your sights high enough – check your altitude – fix your hope in God.

Check your a_____ - what good works do you do? (18,19)

Instruct those who are rich in this present world... to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

- A. How does God want us to be r_____ in good works (doing what God wants) as it relates to material abundance?
 1. Be g_____ - this requires the action of giving a_____ something you have.
 - a. Give regularly to your local c_____ - you are supporting God's work through the body of Christ (see our mission statement).
 - b. Give sacrificially to m_____ (above what you regular give to the church).
 - c. Give in response to someone who is in n_____ (*I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...Matt 25:35,36*).

2. Be s_____ - this requires the action of letting others enjoy what you have with you.
 - a. Many translations read *ready to share* or something similar, but the Greek text has only one word which literally means to have something in c_____. It is better translated as *sharing*.
 - b. If you have something that you are unwilling to share, then you should not have it! – Get rid of it. It will bring you down.
- B. Material things are temporary, but good works are e_____.
 - When we use the temporary (material things) as a means of good works, we are storing up eternal t_____ (*a sure foundation for the future*)
 1. The good works we do in this life will f_____ us in the next life (Rev 14:13; 1 Cor 3:13,14).
 2. Having this lifestyle is taking hold of life indeed
 - a. The KJV reads *eternal life* - some Greek copies have this reading, the earliest being an 8th century copy.
 - b. Modern versions follow the earlier readings which all read *life indeed* (which means that it is meaningful living – NLT translates *experience true life*).

Conclusion:

God gave us all things to enjoy

A. Enjoyment killers

1. P_____
2. D_____ on money
3. G_____

B. Enjoyment fulfillers

1. T_____ God for what you have.
2. H_____ in God and what He has promised.
3. U_____ your abundance for eternal purposes by giving generously to kingdom work and sharing what you have with others.