

ENTRUSTED

LIVING AS *FAITHFUL* STEWARDS



Entrusted // Sermon 3

The Steward's Mind // 1 Timothy 6:17-19

If you have your Bible, turn with me to **1 Timothy**.

- We will be in **1 Timothy 6** today.

I was riding through Atlanta this week and noticed the Lottery was at \$450M.

- I started to think, “What if I won the lottery? What would I do with \$450M?”

First, I have an excellent vision – just in case anyone is ready to give that kind of money.

Here’s what I noticed: *Our minds are usually shaped by what we don’t have.*

- We don’t have enough time...
- We don’t have enough money...
- Or, if I just had _____...

What we *don’t have* *begins to* shape us, making us *wish we had more...*

In 1 Timothy 6, Paul is reminding Timothy – and us – that the Christian life isn’t defined by what we possess, but by *who possesses us*.

Big Idea: *A faithful steward’s mind is shaped not by what they have, but by who has them.*

That's the ***mindset*** Paul wants to cultivate in the church—a heart rooted in humility, trust, and generosity.

- Because when God transforms your mind, it changes how you manage everything in your life.

Let's stand together for the reading of God's Word:

1 Timothy 6:17–19:

[17] As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

I want you to see 3 things about the mind of a steward:

1. **The mind of a good steward is *humble*.**

[17] As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Paul begins by addressing those who are “*rich in this present age*.” – That's you!

- You're probably thinking, “No, that's not me at all.”

Yes, it is – if you have a roof over your head, food on your table, clothes on your back, you are among the wealthiest people in the world – so this is for us.¹

Paul says, “*Charge them not to be haughty*.”

- ***Haughty*** means “*to think too highly of oneself*.”

As William Mounce points out: *Paul is warning against the subtle arrogance that wealth can produce – the illusion that we're self-made and self-sufficient.*²

- He says, Wealth can create an illusion of self-sufficiency.

It tells us: *You did this. You worked for this. You are in control of this. It's yours.*

¹ You are richer than 75% of the world. [Link](#) – Wiersbe echoes this in his commentary.

² William Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles (WBC)*, p. 358.

- It breeds pride because it makes us trust *ourselves* rather than *God*.

But stewardship reminds us that everything we have —and everything we worked for —belongs to God... and He entrusted it to you.

Do you remember the story of *The Rich Fool* in **Luke 12?**

- This is a story of a man with a good business plan, but an empty soul.
- A man's fields produced an incredible crop, and he said to himself, "**I will build bigger barns.**"
- His barns weren't the problem. His heart was.

He had lost dependence on God and started to think his security came from his storage, not his Savior.

The gospel humbles us by reminding us that everything we have is an extension of God's grace.

- We didn't earn God's love; we received it.

And we don't earn our possessions – we receive them from our Father.

- Listen—remembering that you're a recipient, not an owner, changes your attitude toward everything you have.

You have what you have because God graciously gifted you with it.

The mind of a steward begins with humility – but it doesn't end there...

2. The mind of a good steward is *trusting*.

Paul continues...

~~[17] As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.~~

What does it mean to "*set their hopes*"?

- It means *to fix confidence upon*.³

The truth is that riches are *uncertain* – they're unstable like shifting sand – they come and go.

- One day you have plenty, the next day you may lack.

But God is the steady. He *richly provides everything to enjoy*.

³ Strong's Concordance

“We must transfer our confidence from riches, which are uncertain, to God, who richly provides. The issue is not what we own but where we place our trust.”⁴

- John Stott

Paul doesn't say it's wrong to enjoy what God gives – he says it's bad to replace the Provider with what He provides.

- When we start trusting the gift more than the Giver, we've misplaced our hope.

Think about it this way: How many have their Christmas Tree up already?

- We put ours up this week.

On Christmas morning, there will be gifts under the tree.

- When our kids unwrap the gifts, we don't hug the wrapping paper and thank it for the gift...

No, we run to the giver of the gifts...

That's what trust looks like.

- It's delighting in what God gives while remembering that He Himself is our greatest treasure.

The cross is the ultimate display of generosity – God richly provided salvation for us at infinite cost to Himself.

- If He gave Jesus to us, certainly we can trust Him with everything else?

Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If God gave His Son for you, you can trust Him with everything else.

Ask yourself – where have you placed your trust?

- Is your security found in your savings or your Savior?

When you live with humility and trust, it naturally overflows into something beautiful – generosity.

⁴ John Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus*, p. 170.

The mind of a good steward is *trusting*.

3. The mind of a good steward is *generous*.

Paul says:

[18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Listen to Paul: He flips the definition of *rich (wealth)*.⁵

- True wealth isn't what you keep – it's what you give.

A generous steward lives with open hands.

- It's not about how much you have, but how much of what you have you're willing to give.

We are called to *be rich in good works*.

- According to 2 Corinthians, generosity means being *ready to give... being eager to share...* to be enthusiastic about offering.

It's the posture of a heart that believes God can be trusted with the outcome.

When we live this way, we begin to see eternity clearly – we store up treasure in heaven.

"You can't take it with you – but you can send it ahead."

- Randy Alcorn⁶

That's the mindset of a generous steward:

The only wealth you keep forever is the wealth you give away.

Church, our generosity mirrors the generosity of Jesus: *"Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9).*

- We don't give to earn life – we give because we've already received life in Christ.

⁵ https://biblehub.com/1_timothy/6-19.htm

⁶ <https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/181994-the-delight-of-giving>

Paul ends with this: [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may **take hold of that which is truly life.**

That's the paradox of stewardship:

- *The more tightly we cling to things, the emptier we become.*
- *The more freely we give, the fuller we live.*

Let me tell you about a way you will be able to give as we approach the end of the year:

- A. Help us cover our shortfall.
- B. Give to the Live Sent Christmas Offering.

Introduce *Live Sent Christmas Offering*:

This is a new annual tradition.

- Challenging our people to give above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings.

You can give at any time, but we will ask you to begin praying as a family...

- And we will have a **Commitment Sunday on Sunday, December 14.**

As we come to the end of the year, I want to share something with you.

- Like many churches, we are experiencing some ministry momentum *and* some financial challenges.

As of today, we are facing a shortfall of about **\$100,000** in our budget.

- That may sound like a significant number – but remember our budget is around **\$4M**, so that puts things into perspective.

If every person who calls Eagle's Landing home gave **\$125 over the next month**, we could close that gap.

And here is the best part: Once the shortfall is met, every dollar beyond that will go directly toward our **Live Sent Christmas Offering.**

- A. Pray**
- B. Participate**
- C. Trust God**