

# CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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## God Wants Us to Be Rich

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Does that title interest you? Would you like to hear more? Read on, but just remember – there is more to the story.

Many people were excited about their financial status at the beginning of 2000. The stock market had never been higher, and the same could be true of our self-confidence. From a high in March 2000, the stock market is down between 10-50% depending on which index you examine. Are you excited about your financial status now?

Many people look at their broker statement and feel poorer. But probably no one reading this article is poor when compared with the poverty level of some other nations. Did you know that God wants us to be rich? The problem is that we define rich using the wrong criteria. We think in terms of worldly wealth, but to paraphrase C.S. Lewis, we are far too easily satisfied. God wants us to be rich with eternal wealth.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them 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” (1 Tim. 6:17-19, NASB).

Like the stock market, this passage reminds us of the uncertainty of worldly riches. You can't take them to the bank (no pun intended). But, God wants us to comprehend the certainty of

heavenly riches. God promises eternal blessing and security for our good works done in Christ.

People often judge others by what they have. But in this passage, it seems that God will judge us by what we *do* with what we have. Do you spend more time investing for your earthly retirement or your heavenly retirement? It sounds like life in heaven is far more secure than anything on earth. Paul told Timothy that heaven offers life that is truly life.

This passage is not a recommendation. It is a command (verses 17 and 18). It is a command for two reasons.

- *God is the source of our hope.* Our source of hope is not wealth, but the God who gives the wealth. This thinking replaces our arrogance with humility.
- *God gives wealth for a purpose.* God does not want us to simply spend on ourselves. We are to be willing to share. This thinking replaces our selfishness with generosity.

God wants us to be rich in terms of heavenly wealth. When you get to heaven, will you wish that you had invested more heavenly riches there?

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BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: [bbcfoundation.org](http://bbcfoundation.org); e-mail: [info@bbcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bbcfoundation.org)