

Title: A BUDGET PLAN, 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19
(Chatham, NJ; 09/25/10, AM) [D – Question/Answer Outline]

Theme: Paul's pastoral advice to Timothy includes measuring success, what demands a person's best efforts, and how to budget money.

Purpose: To provide the church with some perspective on their money as well as what things demand their best attention.

Introduction:

1. We've been talking a lot about money lately—not just because the church has fallen into some difficulties financially.
2. In going through Luke you can't avoid the topic; he includes a number of stories about people and money.
3. Some of those may involve money and wealth, but they are about much more than that.
4. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is one such story.
5. However, let's look at the pastoral advice given in 1 Timothy by asking a series of questions and by comparing them to Jesus' story.
6. The perspective on money reflects a unique view.

I. Can I Measure Success?

A. Great gain (6)

1. Godliness with contentment – a two-sided coin
2. Most of us seek contentment, and we assume money will provide it.
3. Often money brings about a desire for more.
4. We are told to be content with food and clothing (8).
5. Consumer culture won't leave this alone: from whiter teeth to the next, best car model we are bombarded with desirable images.

B. Godliness

1. This is the other side of great gain.
2. James 1:27 teaches that keeping unstained from the world is pure religion.
3. Godliness or holiness is what God values.
4. Achieving what is valuable to God defines success.
5. Do I really need to please anybody else? (Read John 5:44.)

C. The Rich Man and Lazarus connection (Luke 16:19-31)

1. The rich man "feasted sumptuously" and "lived in luxury." (NIV)
2. By worldly standards he had succeeded. (Note also his rich apparel.)
3. He was not content with food and clothing; he had the best of everything.
4. He spent no time developing godliness; we know this because of where he ended up after his death.
5. By God's standards he failed.

II. What Demands My Best Effort? (Priorities?)

A. Pursue these things.

1. Paul's charge to Timothy can be read as a charge to everyone.
2. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.
3. In essence pursue those things that pertain to holiness and virtue.
4. Keep fighting for the faith (12): your faith is worth your best effort.
5. Take hold of eternal life (12): keep eternity as your ultimate goal.
6. Remain unstained by the world (14).

B. Jesus will come back for you.

1. Prepare for his appearing (14).
2. He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords.
3. He possesses immortality and lives in unapproachable light.
4. We live in hope and anticipation of something better.

C. In the Rich Man and Lazarus

1. Each received recompense for the life he had lived.
2. The Second Coming of Christ in judgment is not stated but implied.
3. The scene with Abraham foreshadows the last judgment.
4. The reason it is portrayed this way is that this story was most likely an old rabbinic tale that Jesus adapts for his own purpose.
5. The point is to prepare for the next life.
6. Our best efforts go into the things we prioritize.
7. Without considering eternity, we won't put our best effort toward the next life.

III. How Do I Handle Money? (Draw up a budget?) 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

A. Bible strangely silent about nickels and dimes (except for the OT tithe).

1. Your attitude toward money is the first budget item.
2. How do you spend it? Are you thrifty? Extravagant? Compulsive?
3. Does it define success?
4. Paul tells the wealthy not to put their hope in it.
5. This is the first thing we need to develop the proper spending habits.

B. Be rich in other ways.

1. Rich toward God
2. Store up treasure for eternity.
3. Take hold of that which is true life.

C. The Rich Man wasn't really rich.

1. His wealth failed him in eternity.
2. He had had plenty of opportunities to help a poor beggar.
3. His sumptuous living ended when he died.

Conclusions:

1. How you handle money begins with how you measure success and with what you consider the most important things to pursue.
2. First, we must believe that eternity matters.
3. Second, we believe that we will have to give an account to God.
4. Third, Jesus provides the only way to eternal life.
5. If we believe in him, obey his commands, and are rich toward God we will succeed in eternity.
6. This is what really matters.
7. Let us strive to handle our money here in a way that gets us into eternal life.