

## **LifeGroup Study Questions**

### **Warnings Concerning Money**

1 Timothy 6:3-19

#### **Opening Discussion**

1. In what ways has the “For This Purpose I Live” series caused you to reflect on how you are living your life and how you are spending your money?

#### **Bible Study**

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What are the consequences of loving money?

According to our study of 1 John 2, why do people love money?

2. According to Jesus in Matthew 6 what is the evidence that we love God and not the things of this world?
3. The alternative to loving money is discussed in 1 Timothy 6:11-16. In summary, isn't Paul telling Timothy that it should be “for this purpose we live?”
4. What is the warning to the rich according to 1 Timothy 6:17-19? Why are the rich often more stressed out about money than the modest or low income family?
5. What should characterize the rich according to 1 Timothy 6:17-19?

#### **Application**

The following are answers to commonly asked questions as you consider what God would have you give to store up treasures in Heaven:

##### **What does the New Testament say about tithing?**

It appears tithing was an Old Testament concept of what was required giving by the Hebrew people. While it is true that tithing is not necessarily a New Testament concept, it certainly offers a practical starting place for giving. Certainly under grace our giving should match and exceed the giving under the law.

##### **Should I tithe off the gross or the net? Can I count my giving to other ministries as part of my tithe?**

This is a little like trying to find deductions on our taxes. We're searching for “tithe deductions.” The real question is how much do we want to store up in heaven? The real goal according to Jesus is: What can we cut in spending to store up more in heaven, rather than how much on earth can we cut our giving?

##### **Should I tithe to the church or can I count all my giving to charitable organizations as part of my tithe?**

Certainly the primary giving should be to the local church that shepherds you. Any Christian organization that challenges the need to give to the local church first should be suspect. Again, the goal is not to limit giving, but to store up as much as possible in heaven. Therefore, giving above and beyond is always a better approach than trying to justify how the total somehow could be viewed as a tithe.

**Should I pledge what I know I can afford?**

You should pledge what God calls you to pledge. It is very possible God may lead you to trust Him to provide in ways you can't see or imagine today. This is the element of faith in our giving. Don't limit what God may want to provide if you're willing to give it back to Him.

**Will my little gift make any difference in a \$11.1 million project?**

The answer is yes, it will. However, the real point is that you need to give it regardless of how small it may seem to you. You need to store up treasures in heaven. You need to embrace God's value system. You need to identify where your heart is. It's not so much about who is going to pay for this project, as much as where your heart is.

**Is it wrong to invest and save for retirement?**

No, it is wise to do so. However, we also need to recognize when those needs are adequately supplied and begin then to invest more in the treasures of heaven. What some are stockpiling for retirement is driven more by fear than need. We should plan to retire at a reasonable income level. Once this is accomplished we can invest more and more in God's kingdom. The purpose is to build the kingdom, not retire in luxury.

Join us in prayerfully considering what God would have us to give as we step out by faith for His glory.