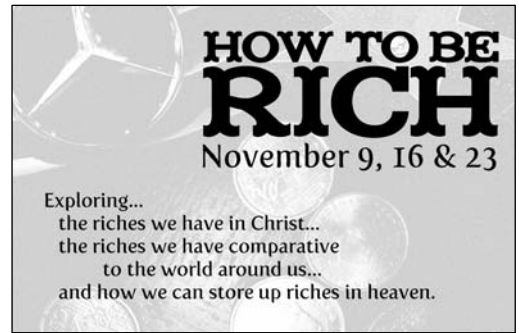


TWO CARS AND A SINGLE HOME

STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 16, 2008



OPEN IN PRAYER

A TIME OF WORSHIP (Optional) - You may want to sing a hymn or chorus.

INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about spiritual riches (Ephesians 1:3-14). But what about material riches? I mean, there's always someone richer isn't there? Maybe it's just me but we often gauge how rich we are by looking upwards at those that have more than us and this makes us feel poor. But, the reality is, I am already rich. And chances are, if you live and breathe in North America, you are too. I have two cars and a single family house. You drop that scenario into most places in the world and I'm a very wealthy person. I'm already rich.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin by reading 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. Describe a time when you experienced poverty. What learnings did you have?
2. Why do you think God inspired Paul to give specific commandments to those that are rich in this age?
3. According to this text, what are the specific pitfalls that those who have much need to be on guard against?
4. What are the specific things the rich are to do? Why? What do you think Paul means by "laying up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age..." v. 19
5. In North America just one third to a half of churchgoers give any financial support to their local church. **ANY.** And of those that do only 3-5 percent give a tenth of their income. Meanwhile, the wealth accumulated by churchgoing people has reached record levels. And despite unprecedented opportunities for global ministry, North American Christians give proportionately less today to the church than we did during the Great Depression. How would you explain this to a third world Christian or to God?

MOVING FORWARD

The Apostle Paul would describe the North American Church as rich. How would you counsel someone who wanted to put these commands into action to do them? How do you do them, as an individual, as a family, as a small group?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.
Luke 12:21

CLOSING PRAYER