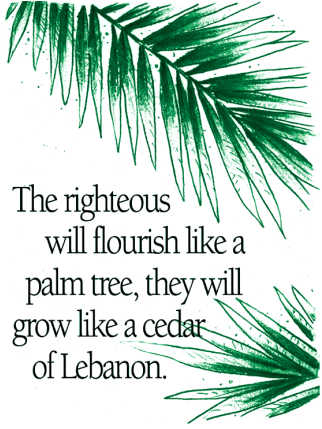


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 12



The righteous
will flourish like a
palm tree, they will
grow like a cedar
of Lebanon.

TRUE RICHES

Scripture Text: 1 Timothy 6:11-21

The rich are to use their riches in good works that they may lay hold on eternal life. Will these works save? No. Does each good deed add merit to one's account to be applied against one's sins, as some teach? No. Not by works of righteousness which we have done (**Titus 3:5**). No, works cannot save. We are saved by the riches of Christ's goodness, God's grace (**Romans 2:4; Ephesians 1:7**). We have redemption through the blood of Christ (**Colossians 1:14**). Where then do works find a place? They are an expression of faith. Faith without works is dead. Works indicate the quality of one's inner life. Every man will be judged according to his works. God sees both heart and deed. We can have true riches without a dime in our pocket. Read **2 Corinthians 6:10**.

To know and obey God is true riches both in this life and in the one to come.

MEMORY VERSE: *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.*

—1 Timothy 6:17

DAILY READINGS:

- Mon.—**Psalm 92** The blessing of the Lord.
- Tue.—**Luke 12:31-40** Treasure in the Heavens.
- Wed.—**2 Corinthians 8:1-15** A church rich in giving.
- Thu.—**Philippians 4:6-19** Looking to God to supply needs.
- Fri.—**Revelation 3:14-22** Gold tried in the fire.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 6:19-34 Incorruptible treasures.

The Right Way to Go

1 Timothy 6:11 Flee these things; and follow after. Here are two ways to go. Here are the same two lines of doctrine we studied in the last lesson—one, the Words of our Lord Jesus and the other, human ideas, or one, the way of **righteousness, godliness, faith . . .** and the other, the way of sin. Now, Paul says, **flee** one of these and **follow after** the other. **Flee**, run for your life, from the **love of money** and the many sins that go with it. This sin, the will to be rich, to gain the things of this world, is a strong and widespread temptation. Preacher and people alike are subject to it. Flee it; it is a matter of life or death. Money, of course, cannot bring satisfaction to the soul. Now the consideration turns to the right way, the way of Christ. Pursue it with your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Follow **righteousness**—obey the Lord from the heart, love His commandments, hate sin. **Godliness**—be like God, be holy, let Christ live in you. **Faith**—believe God, keep the channel of communication open between you and God. **Love**—have the love of God in the heart, exercise that love, love God and men. **Patience**—endure calmly and faithfully any work, hardship, misunderstanding, or persecution. **Meekness** —be gentle, consider others ahead of yourself, and be submissive to God and to right in everything.

Fight the Good Fight

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight—Timothy was fighting with Satan to gain **eternal life**. He had already been a witness to the truth of the Gospel and to his own faithfulness to it **before many witnesses**. The way of Christ was a much persecuted way there. Christians professed Christ at risk of losing all they possessed, even their lives. Timothy had suffered persecution and imprisonment and held true (**Hebrews 13:23**). Timothy fought

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against persecutors as well as spirits. Today our greatest battle is against deceiving spirits (**Ephesians 6:11-12**), spirits which lead us to believe we are right when we are wrong, that we can do wrong and get by. Our battle is truly a daily **fight of faith**—our faith in God. **Lay hold on eternal life**—a better prize than earthly contests can ever offer. The prize can be gained. Read **2 Timothy 4:6-7**.

A Solemn Charge

1 Timothy 6:13-16 Here Paul lays a solemn charge on Timothy—binds him under obligation. He calls **God** and **Christ** as witnesses, reminding Timothy that they see how he fulfills his duty. **God, who quickeneth**—He has the power of life. Christ endured His suffering and death without sin and convinced Pilate of His righteousness. Timothy was told what to do and the purpose of it. **Keep this commandment**—this Gospel—**without spot**. Pass it on pure and unchanged. **Unrebukeable**—obey it so fully that no guilt can be found in him. How long? This Gospel and this record are to be kept for all generations until Jesus comes again. The purpose is to be ready for His coming. **In his times he shall shew**—or He will appear at the appointed time, which no man knows (**Mark 13:32**). Who is He? **Our Lord Jesus Christ**. In the description that follows is the greatest exaltation that human language can voice. Can any read it and doubt that Jesus is God? He is **blessed**—favored of God; **only Potentate**—only ruler with all power and authority; the **King** above all kings; **Lord** above all lords; only One with **immortality**—with inherent eternal life, Who cannot die; **dwelling in the light which no man can approach**—a glory far beyond man's comprehension; **no man . . . can see**—finite man is incapable of seeing infinite God (**John 1:18**). Jacob and Moses saw a manifestation of God in **Genesis 32:30** and **Exodus 33:11**. This greatest, highest One will have **honor and power everlasting**—forever and ever.

The Right Use of Riches

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Some people are **rich in this world**. Having wealth is not sin. Loving it, trusting in it, using it selfishly is. Timothy was to **charge** the rich—by teaching them their responsible duty. What was he to tell them? (1) **Be not high-minded**—not proud, overbearing, for riches do not make one better. (2) Do not **trust in uncertain riches**—they can do nothing spiritually for us; they can soon vanish. (3) Trust in God—He lives, He gives us **all things**, can give all spiritual blessings. (4) **Do good, that they be rich in good works**. What works? **To distribute**, to **communicate**. This is to give to those who need, and to give for the spread of the Gospel. Thus they lay up in store true riches (**Matthew 6:19-21**). These are **a good foundation** for the **time to come**—the Judgment and the next or heavenly dispensation. This record will please God and help to obtain the greatest riches, **eternal life**.

Paul's Plea to Timothy

1 Timothy 6:20-21 **O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust**. What was committed to Timothy? The Gospel, both to keep in his own heart and pass on to others by use of the spiritual gifts he had received. Timothy was in danger of losing it. Everyone is in this danger as long as we are in the world in reach of Satan's temptations. What might steal his faith? **Profane and vain babblings**—earthly, human ideas of those who know nothing of the spiritual things of God. **Oppositions of science falsely so called**—not true science, but philosophies that oppose the truth of God. **Some professing**—adopting these false ideas—**have erred**—have turned from **the faith**, from the truth of the Gospel. But Timothy, **avoid** these things. **Grace be with thee**—the life of God in you to keep you from the wrong and to keep you in the truth.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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