

Give Generously and Guard the Gospel
I Tim. 6:17-21

Give generously now so you can have the best life later. 17-19

- Rich folks—who are they really?
- Responsibility of rich folks: *I charge* to . . . (a command as in v. 13)
 - Negative: Not conceited/feeling superior because of one's riches
Not hope based on riches but on God, 4:10, 5:5
 - Positive: Do good/rich in good works 2:10, Titus 3:8,14
Be generous, II Cor. 9:13
Ready to share, Rom. 12:13, Eph. 4:28, Heb. 13:16
- Reasons for giving richly = (1) riches are uncertain, (2) our riches are from God, (3) it benefits not just the one receiving but the giver too.
Taking hold of life indeed = parallel to *eternal life* in v.12, see *indeed* in 5:3,5,16 = true.

Q: Are you giving from your riches or guarding them?

Guard the gospel message so you don't go astray. 20,21

- This is true for all believers (pl. "you" in v 21, recall 3:15) and especially for leaders like Timothy.
- The gospel message (and its ethics) is like an expensive deposit (banking term) that we must carefully guard, II Tim. 1:12,14, 2:2.
- Again false teaching issue is addressed, 1:3,4, 4:1,7, 6:3,4
- Here is yet another warning about the real possibility of one's faith being lost/damaged, 1:18-20, 5:8, 6:10, II Tim. 2:18.

Q: Are you guarding what you have been richly given?

