

Focus on 1 Timothy 6:6–19

Semicontinuous
Jer. 32:1–3a, 6–15
Ps. 91:1–6, 14–16

Complementary
Amos 6:1a, 4–7 Ps.
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1 Tim. 6:6–19

Luke 16:19–31

WHAT is important to know? —From “*Exegetical Perspective*” by Mitchell G. Reddish In verses 17–19, the author returns to the topic of wealth. Wealth itself is not condemned, but rather the improper attitude toward wealth. Wealth is still seen as possessing inherent danger; one can wrongly place ultimate value on material goods, rather than on God, who is the source of all their wealth “to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share” (v. 18).

WHERE is God in these words? —From “*Theological Perspective*” by Stephanie Mar Smith Paul instructed his readers to take hold of eternal life (*aiōniou zoēs*, v. 12). Often we think of eternal life as a futuristic goal, something we get after we have behaved ourselves in this life. Recent scholarship suggests that Paul was talking about something different. Paul’s prize of life is a prize to be seized upon in this life. Modern theological scholarship has also emphasized the present reality of the eternal. Christ’s coming interrupts present time with the eternal. Eternal life is not something we look forward to, it is something that has arrived because Christ has arrived and has brought eternity into our midst.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

—From “*Pastoral Perspective*” by Jane
Anne Ferguson

We are also called by our baptisms to “fight the good fight of the faith” (v. 12). The Greek phrase “fight the good fight” is broader in its implications than we might first imagine. It more accurately reads “contest the good contest.” As one commentator has put it, “Maintaining the faith and living the faith require the energy of a good athlete.” A life that enduringly pursues such qualities as “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness” (v. 11) is an athletic life of faith, a life of wholeness and total commitment to the ways of God.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

—From “*Homiletical Perspective*” by
William P. “Matt” Matthews

Paul urges his readers *not* “to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment” (v. 17). A life with this focus will have to do not with bank accounts and body shape, but with wealth beyond mere *stuff* that rusts and can be eaten up by moths (Matt. 6:19). This is the full life no idol can replace. Paul would say that it is vitally important to put wealth (and other potential idols) into proper perspective. Take hold of the life that really *is* life, Paul would say. Don’t get stuck on money, or nation, or CNN, or church growth or . . . anything else. “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness” (1 Tim. 6:11).

My Week

Think of a circle as representing a typical week in your life. Make a pie chart by drawing lines from the center to the circumference, creating different-sized "slices" to correspond with the various ways you use your time. (Hint: In case you change your mind as you develop the "pie," begin by making tiny preliminary marks on the circumference to indicate the size of the slices; when you feel pretty sure of your percentages, draw the lines from the center to the marks.) Label each slice according to the way you use your time.

Some categories to take into account: work; watching TV; eating; sleeping; church activities; caring for children; sports or exercise; prayer/Bible reading; listening to/playing music; reading; going out (restaurants, theaters, etc.); visiting family/friends; shopping; phone conversations; Facebook/Twitter/etc.; surfing the Internet; other.

