

Series: Big Give (2)
Blessed People Bless People
(1 Timothy 6:17-19)
December 13, 2015

- * **Church history note** – the early church had none of the building blocks of enduring movements. No weapons, might, powerful unions. 1st century Christians were not that organized, no buildings, weren't recognized by government. For three centuries, they were powerless, even persecuted. The hallmark of Christians in first century was not wealth or theology but compassion and generosity.
 - Followers saw Jesus model and teach
- * **Emphasis/series: The Big Give** – prioritize the mission of God through service, generosity - teaching and projects.
- * **Church is God's demonstration community:**
 - Generosity, service, etc., does not replace the proclamation of the gospel, it demonstrates it - tangibly demonstrates God's generosity to us. Jesus didn't just say He loved us – He demonstrated it by laying His life down in our place.
- * Church has **both proclamation of the gospel + demonstration** – Powerful!
 - Last week: Saved people, serve people
 - Today: blessed people, bless people

1. **God, not money, should be our main source of security** (v.17)
 - * "not to be haughty" = arrogant and high-minded. Over time this becomes a source of hope, security.
 - arrogant = "having an inflated sense of self-worth." When net worth inflated – self-worth inflated too. Human nature tells us our identities are defined by our possessions.
 - Proverbs 18:11
2. **God wants us to enjoy His gifts** (v.17)
 - God gives us material blessings as gifts, and He is glorified when we enjoy them.
 - Psalm 104:15
 - * Not the only principle, and not an excuse for a self-serving lifestyle – but it's good to recognize God's fatherly goodness to you in material blessings.
 - Don't feel guilty about making lots of money, enjoying some of the blessings.
3. **Blessed people – bless people** (v.18)
 - "do good", "rich in good works"
 - * Our money was given to us as a **tool for blessing**. That's the reason God gave us some – to love and bless richly, like He does.
 - "Are you a generous person"?
 - "be rich in good works"
4. **Think Long Term** (v.19)
 - * The greatest deterrent to our giving is shortsightedness.