

Wealth Demands Responsibility

Few of us would consider ourselves wealthy. If you are like most of us you live pay check to pay check. Yet when we compare our lifestyle to our fellow Christians around the globe we truly are wealthy. Consider these astonishing facts...

- There is a lot of talk about the 1% in our country. The 1% level starts at \$380K income a year. **How much do you need to earn to be in the top 1% globally? \$34,000!**
- The typical person in the bottom 5 percent of the American income distribution is still richer than **68 percent** of the world's inhabitants.

Wealth is not simply amassing a pile of money. Nor should wealth be determined by how much stuff you possess. True wealth is being free from financial concerns. While we might struggle to make ends meet few of us miss a meal. The same cannot be said for others around the globe. When they look at us, they see wealthy people.

While we might argue that we are not wealthy the truth is we as Americans have been blessed. Despite our recent economic setbacks we still enjoy so much that others in the world don't have access to. Jesus said in Luke 12: 48 that, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

Paul wrote to Timothy in I Timothy 6: 17-19 the following, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

One way we can do good deeds and be generous is through our weekly offering. Your gift through this church goes for much more than simply paying our bills. It funds all the ministries that we do here. It helps us spread good throughout not only our area, but our state, nation and even around the globe. Giving at the time of our offering is one way you can pay back the blessings that God has given to you and your family.

We have been given much. While we might not have all we want we have what we need. Have you ever considered that one reason God has given you so much is that you might be able to return a portion of that to others? Today as our ushers come forward for our offering let's think about how we can share the wealth God has given us.