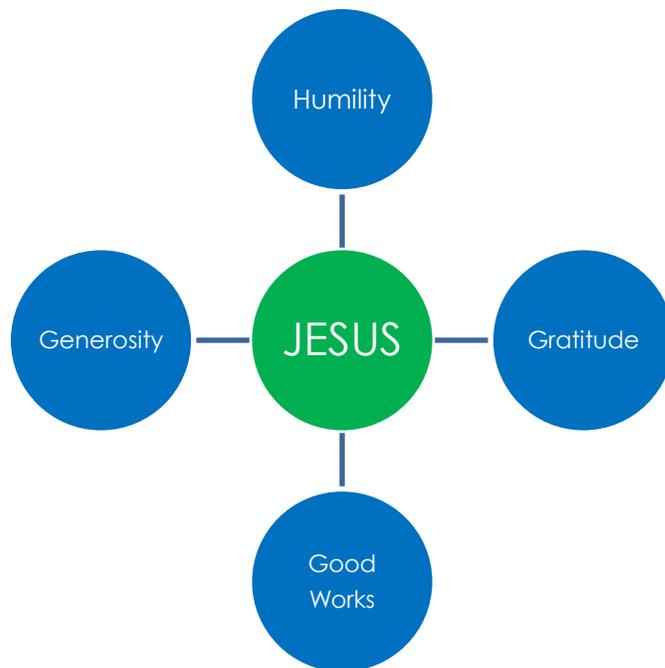


# The Life That Really Is Life

Those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of **the life that really is life**. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## SPYM Core Values Diagram



**6:17** It is good for this present world, but it does not convert automatically into blessedness in the world beyond. In this verse Paul contrasted right and wrong responses to the possession of wealth. A wrong response involves an arrogant attitude and the making of wealth as the hope of one's life.

The right response is to hope in a God who lavishes on his people all their needs. The statement implies that God does not give wealth to promote pride but that we might use and enjoy it according to his will. Paul's sound advice is to walk the straight line between a world-denying asceticism and a self-centered indulgence. The advice **promotes gratitude toward God for the benefits he bestows.**

**6:18** Paul mentioned **four ways** to use wealth wisely.

1. To **do good** involves using wealth in a positive way by sharing it instead of letting it feed a life of selfish luxury.
2. To be rich in **good deeds** points the wealthy in the direction to which they were to be truly rich, by doing good deeds. These two verbs probably include more than benevolence. The need for benevolence is emphasized in the next pair of terms.
3. To **be generous** demands a free-will sharing of wealth with others.
4. One who is **willing to share** shows that the generous act of giving is to spring from the goodness within the person. Paul was suggesting that genuine wealth is found in what we give, not what we have.

**6:19** Paul outlined the outcome of such generosity by stressing **two truths.**

**First**, he stressed that giving generously to the needy stores for the giver a real treasure in heaven. The phrase emphasizes **that generous givers are helping others, and at the same time they are also helping themselves by storing up significant personal spiritual benefits in heaven.** Paul was not advocating that the giver could earn favors from God. Good works are solid evidence of salvation and assure us that we have eternal life.

**Second**, Paul stressed **that generous actions allow the giver to lay hold of eternal life in the here and now.** Paul had urged Timothy to lay hold of this in v. 12. Here Paul expressed that taking hold of eternal life is a goal of the unselfish giving Jesus commanded. Christians who enter the life of love by unselfish behavior will enter gloriously into God's presence in the life to come.

## St. Paul Youth Ministry

**S** - Spirited

**P** - Prayerful

**Y** - Youth

**M** - Missionary