

Prosperity in the Present or Prosperity in the Future:  
Where is Our Hope?  
1 Timothy 6:17-19

**The Warning (17):** Paul finishes his first letter to Timothy by telling the rich Christians in Ephesus not to be prideful and not to set their hope in their riches. Their riches are uncertain and can lead to temptation if they put their hope in them. Paul previously showed that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and has already caused some to wander away from the faith (6:10). We are among the rich Christians in the world and must guard against the temptation to put our hope in our riches and the sin of pride in which these riches produce.

**The Answer (18):** The rich Christians at Ephesus are rich only because God has given them all that they have. They should put their hope in God, for He alone is certain to provide all that they need. By doing this, Christians gain godliness in contentment (6:6). We must be reminded that we brought nothing into this world and cannot take anything out of this world (6:7). Paul shows us what it looks like to hope in God. We must use our riches to do good, we must be rich in good works, we must be generous with all that we have, and we must be ready to share with others at all times (6:18).

**The Result (19):** When rich Christians hope in God, they take hold of eternal life. Our hope in God causes us to store up the true treasure that will last for eternity. This foundation keeps us from ruin and destruction in this life and for eternity (6:9). We must not live for the prosperity of this world, but hope in God, who provides true prosperity in Jesus Christ.

**Questions for Reflection:**

- 1) How are you tempted to put your hope in your riches?
- 2) How are you guarding yourself against this temptation?
- 3) In what ways do you show that your hope is in God?
- 4) How is Jesus prosperous for us in the present and future?