

1 Timothy 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Analysis

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come (ἀποθησαυρίζοντας ἐαυτοῖς θεμέλιον καλὸν εἰς τὸ μέλλον, apothēsaurizontas heautois themelion kalon eis to mellon)—'storing up for themselves a good foundation for the future.' Apothēsaurizō means to treasure up, store away. Themelion means foundation. Mellon means what is coming, the future —here, eternity.

That they may lay hold on eternal life (ἴνα ἐπιλάβωνται τῆς ὄντως ζωῆς, hina epilabōntai tēs ontōs zōēs)—'so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.' Epilambanomai means to grasp, seize, take hold of. Ontōs means really, truly, actually. Eternal life is the only real life—present life is shadow.

Generous giving is eternal investment—laying up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). Earthly wealth doesn't transfer to eternity, but generosity does—it builds eternal foundation. The wealthy who give generously now experience 'life indeed'—both abundant life now and eternal reward later. This isn't earning salvation but wise stewardship producing eternal fruit.

Historical Context

Jesus taught storing treasures in heaven, not earth (Matthew 6:19-21). Paul applies this: generous giving builds eternal foundation. Ancient believers understood investing for future return—Paul spiritualizes it: invest earthly wealth in eternal

realities through generosity. The wealthy who give sacrificially discover true life—joy, purpose, eternal reward—that wealth alone can never provide.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does generous giving build 'foundation for the future'—what eternal investment does it create?
2. What is 'life indeed'—how does generosity unlock abundant life now and eternal life later?
3. How can wealthy Christians view money as investment opportunity in eternal realities?

Interlinear Text

ἀποθησαυρίζοντας	Laying up in store	έαυτοῖς	for themselves	θεμέλιον	foundation	καλὸν	a good	εἰς	τὸ	
	G597		G1438		G2310		G2570		G1519	G3588
μέλλον	the time to come	ἵνα	that	ἐπιλάβωνται	they may lay hold on	τῆς	G3588	αἰωνιόν	eternal	ζωῆς
	G3195		G2443		G1949				G166	G2222

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:12 (Eternal Life): Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Proverbs 31:25 (Parallel theme): Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

Luke 16:9 (Eternal Life): And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

1 Peter 1:4 (Parallel theme): To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Ephesians 3:17 (Parallel theme): That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Philippians 3:14 (Parallel theme): I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 19:21 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Luke 12:33 (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Luke 18:22 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.