

Week 17
111/254

Transforming Daily
“... ready to give ...”
Ephesians 6:18

How does one prepare to give? In this text, Paul includes both the spiritual and material dynamic in his statement, “ready to give.” Specifically, Paul tells Timothy to command those who are rich in this life that, while enjoying those riches, not to trust in them, but in the living God. In Pauline fashion, Paul incorporates both physical and spiritual considerations for service and ministry. The question for the believer is, “What does it mean to be ‘rich in this present age?’” Or, “How much money and materials does one have to have to be rich?”

I just kicked off my shoes for the day. I kicked off my casual day shoes. As I did, I kicked them into a pile of other shoes. In that pile of shoes, are black dress shoes, present running shoes, old running shoes (which are now my yard work shoes) and the aforementioned brown, casual day shoes. Five feet away from them, next to just one of our dressers in the bedroom are a pair of “Rocky” steel-toed boots. I don’t have time to tell you about the other five pairs of shoes (boots and sandals) in the walk-in closet. Do you get the picture? I am not Donald Trump or Bill Gates, and I live in a trailer, but I think that compared to many others throughout the Unites States and around the world, just in shoes alone, I would be considered to be rich, and so would you.

The point of the text is for the believer to understand that God’s provision isn’t just for our pleasure, but more importantly, for the service of and ministry to others. Realizing this is part of the preparation procedure. Another part of the preparation procedure in readying to give is to know that, whether material or immaterial, it all comes from God and belongs to Him. A third step in preparing to give is to develop a desire to share with others. And lastly, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness . . . (Matthew 6:33).” All believers should be more concerned about gaining riches in heaven than on earth.

You might think that you don’t have much, and you might not have much materially speaking, but I can almost guarantee that you have more than some others. So I ask you, “Are you ready to give?”