

Lesson Notes:

Legacy of Caring

The Bible actually provides some wonderful insight in how we are to approach welfare for the needy, under privileged and down trodden. Following are scriptural principles for caring for the needy.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **The needy should be supported only until they can support themselves.** – In **1 Timothy 5:9** Paul refers to supporting the needy until they can get back on their feet. In **2 Thessalonians 3:10** this does not apply to those that refuse to help themselves.
- 2) **Paul limits church care for widows to those that have no one to care for them.** – **1 Timothy 5:3-4** – Therefore, we are responsible for our parents and needy family members.
- 3) **Widows or the Poor are not to live an extravagant Lifestyle.** – In **1 Timothy 5:6-10** Paul tells us that he or she that lives alone is to continue in prayer and supplications to the Lord but they are not to live in luxury. In **1 Timothy 6:6-10** Paul tells us that we brought nothing into this world and we will not take anything out. We are to be content with basic food and clothing.
- 4) **The church needed to avoid supporting someone that has other options to avoid idleness and gossip.** – Paul tells Timothy in **1 Timothy 5:11-14** that the younger widows should be encouraged to marry and to maintain a home. They should not become busy bodies wondering about and gossiping.
- 5) **Law of Moses told landowners to permit gleaning of their fields.** – **Deuteronomy 24:19-22**; Paul also instructs us to be charitable in **2 Corinthians 8:13-15**; Jesus encourages charity in **Matthew 25:31-40**
- 6) **David provided for women violated by Absalom** – **2 Samuel 20:3**
- 7) **Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their treatment of widows** – **Luke 20:46-47** – The religious leaders of Christ's time would take money from the church coffers and lavish goods upon themselves while ignoring those in need.
- 8) **Woe to those who take advantage of the elderly, poor, young and widows.** – **Matthew 23:14 - 15** – During Jesus walk on earth the Pharisees were very strict in their dealings with the elderly, the poor and the down trodden. They required tithing and offerings from people that were starving in the streets and told them that if they did not comply they had no inheritance in heaven. While they themselves sat at the head of the table during weddings and banquets and were proud of the position they

had within the temple and within the Jewish society. Jesus made it very clear what he thought of them and the sorrow that awaited them after death.