

A close-up, high-angle shot of a large pile of gold coins. The coins are scattered and piled together, creating a textured surface. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the metallic sheen of the coins. The word "TREASURED" is overlaid in the upper center in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline.

TREASURED

THE CHURCH IS TO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE FAMILY.

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

vs. 1-2

“At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year...and the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.” Deut. 14:28-29

“When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.” Deut. 24:19

“The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow...” Ps. 146:9

“But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.” Acts 6:3

“A Father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation. He makes a home for the lonely...” Ps. 68:5-6

**“You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. If you afflict him at all, and if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry; and My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.”
Exo. 22:22-24**

HOW ARE WE TO TREAT THE ELDERLY?



1. HONOR THEM. Vs. 1-2

“Honor widows who are widows indeed.” vs. 2

Widow Indeed is a woman who is:

A. Alone

“But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents for this is acceptable in the sight of God. Now she who is a widow indeed, and who has been left alone...” vs. 4-5a

B. A believer and trusting God.

“Now she who is a widow indeed, and who has been left alone and has fixed her hope on God...” vs. 5a

C. Faithful in prayer and concern for others.

“...and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.” vs. 5b

“But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.” vs. 6

“Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach.” vs. 6-7

D. Not supported by her physical family.

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.” vs. 8

2. ENCOURAGE THEM IN MINISTRY. Vs. 9-10

“Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saint’s feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.” vs. 9-10

3. WARN THEM. Vs. 11-16

“But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. And at the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.” vs. 11-13

“Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; for some have already turned aside to follow Satan.” vs. 14-15

“If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.” vs. 16

APPLICATION FOR ME:

Ask God to give you the same compassion that He has for those without family.

Ask God to make our church family truly a home for the lonely.

“This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” James 1:27

Give some of your time to visit them.

Volunteer your services to assist the elderly.

Encourage them to join you in ministry.

Consult them for their understanding of the Scriptures and draw upon their expertise.

Invite them to participate in your family events.

Assist them financially to help with their needs for food and shelter.

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