

Lakeview Leader

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE RICH?

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

Daily Bible Readings

If you have any suggestions on a Bible reading plan we can do together next year let me know.

H.E. Phillips

To some degree just about everyone wants to be rich. The sad part is that most want to be rich in earthly treasures and care nothing for true riches. "Rich" is a relative term and does not say how much wealth one must have to be considered rich. It would depend entirely upon comparison with others. The word does not tell the nature of the wealth. One may be rich in one thing and poor in another.

The Love of Money

The Holy Spirit warns: "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:9,10). Here those who "will be rich" are those who "love [money," and while they covet after it, they depart from the faith and bring upon themselves many sorrows. I suppose there is nothing that has not been done or will not be done "to be rich." One sure way to make a fortune is to devise a scheme which promises to make men rich and offer it for sale. The greed of men will drive them to invest in or purchase the plan in the hope of becoming rich.

False Concept of Riches

I can tell you how to be rich!

But unlike some of the get-rich - quick schemes, I do not propose to offer you the "uncertain riches" that fade away with time. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (I Tim. 6:17). The tendency to trust in uncertain riches is plainly taught by the Lord in a parable of a certain rich man whose ground brought forth plentifully. His major concern was to find the room to store his wealth, and when he had made ample arrangements he thought to say within himself: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." God called him a fool and said he would die that night. Now what about his riches? Jesus concludes by saying: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

The man who thinks he is rich because he has much money, property, stocks and bonds, and all that is considered wealth in this world is miserably mistaken. The lukewarm church in Laodicea considered itself rich. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing. . ." (Would not a man in this state be considered secure and successful?) "...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable,

and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). I could hardly imagine a worse condition, yet these people thought of themselves as being rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing. In reality they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

True Riches

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich . . ." The real wealth comes from God and we must "buy" it. "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). This suggests that the truth is obtained by some effort on your part and at some expense to you. Whatever you have to pay for it, do not sell it for any consideration.

Now, do you really want to be rich? I mean rich in the full sense of the word, with riches that cannot be taken from you. The Laodiceans were to "buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." "Buy" cannot mean that value for value is given, because there is no price man can bring to purchase the priceless riches in Christ. This simply indicates the effort on the part of the one desiring these riches to obtain them. The "gold tried in the fire" is the pure gold refined by fire and separated from the dross. "T hat you may be rich" is that true wealth in contrast to the riches of this world.

Jesus taught that men should "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and

God's Plan for Money Ownership

Points to Consider

1. Who Owns What?
2. Who Gives What to Whom and Why?
3. Who Does What to it and When?

Who Owns What?

- all the gold in California

Deut 10:14 *Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*

Ps 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.*

_____ belongs to the Lord. Every galaxy, every solar system, every star, and every planet belong to the Lord.

The earth belongs to the Lord. _____ on the earth belongs to God.

Every _____ who lives on the earth belongs to God.

Lev 25:23-24 *The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.*

God wanted the Israelites to know that the land belonged to _____.

Ps 50:10-12 *For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.*

All _____ belong to God.

Hag 2:6-9 *For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts.*

Every ounce of _____ and _____ on earth belongs to the Lord.

Every drop of _____ belongs to God.

Every cubit foot of natural _____ belongs to God.

Who Gives What to Whom and Why?

1 Sam 2:6-8 *The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. 7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. 8 He raises the poor from*

the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He has set the world upon them.

The Lord is the one who gives _____ financial blessings to whomever _____ chooses.

James 1:17-18 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

Every good gift is from _____.

Matt 5:44-46 *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

God gives _____ men certain blessings.

Matt 6:31-34 *Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

God promises the necessities of life to those who seek his kingdom _____.

Gen 32:10-11 *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.... So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.*

God blessed Jacob because God _____ to.

2 Chron 32:27-29 *Hezekiah had very great riches and honor. And he made himself treasures for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of desirable items; 28 storehouses for the harvest of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of livestock, and folds for flocks. 29 Moreover he provided cities for himself, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very much property.*

God gave Hezekiah _____ he owned.

Hezekiah was blessed by God _____ Hezekiah served Him.

Not all of God's servants were wealthy, but we must admit that some were wealthy because God blessed them.

Who Does What to it and When?

Eccl 5:10-15 *He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes? 12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep. 13 There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. 14 But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, there is nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand.*

Men have a tendency to _____ their money.

Others _____ it.

No one takes it with them.

1 Chron 29:16-18 *O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own. 17 I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.*

Godly men offer to God _____ from what He already owns.

2 Peter 3:10-13 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

When Jesus comes back, _____ earthly things will be destroyed.

Practical Application

When talking about material possessions let's change pronouns. Substitute His or God's for mine or ours.

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where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

How to Become Rich

The true riches come from God through Christ — "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). They come through Christ by the gospel. Paul said he had been made a minister "to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of his glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:25-27). "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:2,3). Again Paul said: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

All this means that you can be rich if you will hear the word of truth concerning the unsearchable riches of Christ and understand it. But you must do something to receive these riches.

Both Jew and Gentile must call upon the name of the Lord to be saved (Rom. 10:13). In order to call upon him, they must believe; and in order to believe they must

hear; and in order to hear, there must be a message given and a messenger to preach it. In the verse leading to this point we read: "For there is no difference between the Jew and Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Rom. 10:12). The Lord is rich only to those who call upon him, and this is done by obeying the truth believed.

James 2:5 says that the poor in this world are "rich in faith." Of course, this does not mean that one who is poor in things of this world is automatically "rich in faith." Since the whole context is dealing with "respect of persons" even in the assembly, based upon how much of this world's riches one possesses, the "poor" would be those saints who are not rich in goods, but rich in faith. A wealthy man may be "poor" in that he does not regard his wealth as important when compared to his faith in Christ.

The Lord said unto the church in Smyrna: "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9). This church was in poverty, yet they were rich! How can this be? The answer, of course, lies in the difference between the riches of this world and the riches of faith in Christ. Moses elected to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; "esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt" (Heb. 11:25,26).

False Values

Not many can be persuaded to

accept the riches that come by faith in Christ. They are not nearly so interested in the treasures in heaven as the treasures of this world. In this affluent society in which we live anything that is not valued in terms of dollars and cents is not important. The great majority would not turn around for the privilege of learning the truth of God's word. Most are not concerned about what their children are taught by way of television, movies, books, magazines, not to speak of back alleys and lonely roads in parked cars. Just so they can "make plenty of money" to "provide for their children," nothing else makes any difference. Your child needs money less than anything else in this generation. He needs to become rich in things that extend beyond this life. He will never be rich, even if you leave him a million dollars, unless you teach him the wisdom of God that he may be rich in faith.