

# L55 | I Corinthians | True Riches | I Cor. 4:8-17

## I. Intro/Review:

- At the heart of the Corinthians contentions and divisions, as is true with most strife and envy, is to have ascendancy over others.
  - Such ascendancy is woven into the fabric of the wisdom of the world
- Paul had dealt with the riches of the world; however, now calls out the Corinthians specifically for their vain pursuit of the same.

## II. Preview:

- Examine the riches of the world to contrast them to true riches

## III. Sermon:

[8] - "Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you."

- They are full, rich, kings
  - These terms summarize the end of that which all the world has to offer; therefore, are comprehensive terms that signify purpose for man.
  - These are terms that signify the intended goal and purpose of their Christianity. They changed the glory of God into the glory of men.
- **"full"** - having within its limits all that it can contain; abounding with; having a large quantity or abundance; utmost extent
  - **Acts 27:38** - "And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea."
  - How can they be full without the fullness of God? Paul has not spoken to them "the hidden wisdom of God". That wisdom revealed in Ephesians.
    - **Eph. 3:19** - "that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."
  - Therefore, they are full of something other than that which God has provided.
  - They have had enough of what God has provided for they are full of what they have in this world. When you take in and highly esteem, therefore, glory in the things of this life they will fill your heart leave no room for God's things. In the heart you may have only one treasure.
- **"rich"** - wealthy; possessing a large portion of land, goods or money that which is more than is common to other men; abundant in materials; possessing that which is costly and valuable.
  - Two kinds of riches
    - **Job 36:19** - "Will He esteem thy riches? No, not gold, nor all the forces of

strength."

- **Job 23:12** - "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."
- **Psalm 37:16** - "A little a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."
- **Psalm 52:1-7** - "Lo, this is the man that made not God His strength; but trusted in the abundance of His riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness."
- **Proverbs 13:7-8** - "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke."
- **Luke 16:11, 13** - "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches....No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, or love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
- **Hebrews 11:26** - "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."
- **James 2:5** - "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?"
  - **1 Corinthians 1**
  - **Hebrews 11:1** - "Not faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
    - **Hebrews 11:6** - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."
- **James 5:1-11** - the end of the Lord
- **Revelation 2:9** - "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)..."
- **2 Corinthians 6:10** - "...as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."
- **2 Corinthians 8:9** - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."
- **Proverbs 3:13-15**
- Riches determined based upon the value of others; here, determined by God
  - Riches determined first as the means to redeem or not (Ps. 49:6-9; Prov. 11:4)

- Determined by that which is spiritual (the soul)
  - Determined by how long it provides for or lasts
    - 1 Cor. 3 - gold, silver, and precious stones
- Earthly and heavenly, carnal and spiritual
  - The earthly riches are "deceitful" (trickery, fraudulent, misleading, ensnaring, oppression)
    - Matt. 13:22
    - Luke 8:14
  - The Corinthians embrace the wisdom of the world because of that which it gives them in this life. Yet, they are poor and deceived.
    - The earthly riches are "uncertain" in this life and do not last
      - 1 Timothy 6:17
      - Whether by death or the pending day of judgment they will perish and not abide.
- Summary
  - You can be in poverty in this life and if your soul is ransomed be rich
  - You can be rich in this life and if your soul is not ransomed you're not rich enough
  - Faith looks to the substance, reward of the great God in the life to come, not to the accumulation of the riches of this world and any riches one has in this world use them to lay up in store for the life to come by being willing to distribute.
- "kings" - a chief sovereign over a nation; one invested with supreme authority
  - **Ps. 76:12** - "...He is terrible to the kings of the earth."
  - **Ps. 89:27** - "Also I will make Him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth"
  - **Ps. 135:10** - "Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings;"
  - **Ps. 138:4** - "All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth."
  - **Ps. 148:1-13** - "Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: let them praise the name of the LORD: for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven."
  - Christ is "the King of kings" (1 Tim. 6:15)
    - The Corinthians that add the wisdom of the word to the preaching of the cross and make it of none effect.
    - The very thing that reveals His glory, manifests Himself as the worthy King, but is not measured by human norms and standards, is what is so easily compromised.

- Man thinks it is what they possess (full and riches) that makes them great or what they have done that makes them excellent. Therefore, when they see a poor, uncomely, crucified Christ they change that glory into the glory of man's choosing. Attempting and striving after vain glory, more possessions, more things, more notoriety that perish with the using, do not last forever, uncertain, and will be left behind upon death.
- Yet, with God it is altogether different. It is who God IS that makes Him great. It is from His inherent greatness that causes His marvelous works. The Corinthians are imperfect in their ability to discern the two systems.

#### IV. Conclusion:

- At the very heart of the Corinthian contentions and grip upon the wisdom of the world are the riches of the world.
- The deceitful nobility, mightiness, and fulness is pleasant to the flesh; hence, the reason for envy and strife and cause for their divisions.
- The deceitfulness of riches are
  1. Selfish (against another)
  2. Uncertain (in obtainment, maintenance)
    - Perish with the using
  3. Fleeting (will not take with you after death)
- The true riches are
  1. Selfless (one another)
  2. Certain
    - Work for you with the using
    - Merchandise that as you spend you gain
      - (not spend a little to gain)
  3. Abide Forever
- Paul will set himself against them, himself as an apostle and God's appointment of apostles compared to what the Corinthians thinking of God's appointment of them.
- God's appointment of apostles works the sufferings of Christ from the world.
- Apparently, God's appointment of the Corinthians works glory from the world.
- Such comparison will serve as a "warning" for them!