

L56 | I Corinthians | True Riches Pt. 2 | I Cor. 4:8-17

I. Intro/Review:

- At the heart of the Corinthians divisions was strife and envy; therefore, the quest for gain. Paul recognized they did not behold correctly that they had received neither for its worth or for that which it teaches about gain.
- The testimony of scripture prescribes two sets of riches
 - One set was created by God, harnessed and corrupted by man: riches, strength, armament, reputation, etc.
 - This set of riches and their gain are commonly sought after among men.
 - These riches are
 1. Uncertain (1 Timothy 6:17)
 2. Deceitful (Matthew 13:22; Pro. 13:7-8)
 3. Temporary/Perish/Carnal (Isa. 23:11; Matt. 16:26)
 - **Pro. 27:20** - "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied."
 - The other set of riches are consistent to God's character and purpose in Christ
 - This set of riches and their gain are not reserved for man, but members of the body of Christ.
 - These riches are
 1. Certain (Heb.
 2. True (Luke 16:11, 13;
 3. Eternal/Spiritual
- Therefore, the value of God's riches to the riches of the world is far greater
 - **Psalm 37:16** - "A little a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."
 - **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."

II. Preview:

- Further compare and contrast between true riches and deceitful riches
- Examine the contrast of Paul to the Corinthians

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."

- Let us glean a little more understanding about true riches by looking at a few more scriptures
 - **Proverbs 27:7** - "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter things is sweet."
 - **Proverbs 27:24** - "For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?"
 - **Proverbs 28:6** - "Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich."
 - **Proverbs 28:20** - "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."
 - **Proverbs 28:22** - "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."
 - Luke 12:16-21
 - Matthew 16:24-27
 - **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."
 - **Psalm 49:6-9** (whole psalm) - "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for Him: (for the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) that he should still live for ever, and not see corruption."
 - **Psalm 22:29** - "All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul."
 - **Proverbs 11:4** - "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."
- **Summary** | Scripture is clear that we engage in riches that will perish and our use of them should reflect such an understanding and a godly use of them will signify that which is contrary to worldly riches, that is, the riches of God are greater.
- Examine the contrast of Paul to the Corinthians
 - Let's use Proverbs as a segue back to our text
 - **Proverbs 3:13-16**
 - Happy! "findeth wisdom and getteth understanding"
 - For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain there of than fine gold.
 - Nothing can be compared to her

- God's wisdom possesses its own value in contrast to the wisdom of the world with its temporary riches
 - Those riches of God are Christ - Christ is made unto us wisdom and Christ is our riches
 - **1 Corinthians 1:30** - "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom..."
 - **Colossians 2:1-3** - "...in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"

IV. Conclusion:

- Paul's appointed sufferings were a token of his faithfulness (1 Cor. 4:2) and evidence of greater riches.
- The Corinthians, although there is nothing inherently wrong with fulness, riches, and authority, the Corinthians esteem of their glory showed their love for the riches of the world.
- Their spectacle was not one of faithfulness to the gospel they had received, but the same old deceit of corrupting God's wisdom concluding in strife, envy, contentions, and divisions.
- The Corinthians were not to be puffed up for one man against another based upon worldly measurements, especially not based upon the riches they held to that are uncertain, perishing, and temporary.