

## Riches Money Cannot Buy

### Introduction:

1. Suppose a stranger knocked on your door yesterday, introduced himself, and then said “I am taking a survey to determine how many rich people live in this area,” and then he asked you the question, “are you rich.” What would have been your answer?
2. Most of us would have probably said “no” to that question, for most of us equate riches with material prosperity. And we generally do not consider ourselves wealthy. We regard one as wealthy if:
  - a. He can pay cash for a new Mercedes Benz, a new Rolls Royce, a New Motor Home, a new mansion, etc.
  - b. The fact is, most of us don’t think we are rich at all – although, if we compared our situation with that of most of the rest of the world, or with that of previous generations, most of us are very wealthy – even in material blessings. Even now, there are millions who would consider themselves well off if they had shoes on their feet, warm clothes on their backs, sufficient food to eat, political freedom, and some place (however humble) they could call “home.” If they had these things, and on top of that they also had a TV, a reliable automobile, a dish washer, and an air conditioned house in which to live they would regard themselves as fabulously wealthy.
3. However, it is a grievous mistake to equate true riches with dollars and cents.
  - a. In fact, a key message of the Bible is the fact that money alone does not constitute true riches (Prov. 13:7; Rev. 2:8-9)
  - b. Elsewhere the wise man revealed why money alone does not constitute true wealth (Eccl. 5:17).
    - (1) Never satisfied, Eccl. 5:10.
    - (2) Increased obligations, Eccl. 5:11.
    - (3) Added worry, Eccl. 5:12.
    - (4) Of temporal duration, Eccl. 5:15-16.
4. However, notwithstanding the message of Eccl. 5:12-17, most people fail to learn the intended lesson. Consequently, it is common for people:
  - a. To admire, to grovel at the rich, Prov. 14:20; Jas. 2:1-4.
  - b. To envy the rich, Ps 73:1-5,12,16,17.
  - c. Rush to imitate the rich, Prov. 28:20; Prov. 23:5.
5. In view of the fleeting nature of material riches, and the misfortune that generally is experienced by those who go all out in a deliberate attempt to amass a huge fortune, I think it appropriate that we give consideration to those true riches – those riches money cannot buy.

### Discussion: Riches Money Cannot Buy.

#### I. Physical Life and Health.

- A. Consider Eccl. 9:4; Ps. 90:9-12,14.
- B. Many would be glad to trade all the money they have accumulated for one more day of life, but they can’t!
  1. This, incidentally, reflects the importance of our redeeming the time, Eph. 5:15-16.

#### II. A True Friend.

- A. A friend Defined:
  1. One who will provide correction, Prov. 27:5-6.
  2. One who will sacrifice in another’s behalf, Prov. 27:10.
  3. One who loves at “*all times*,” Prov. 17:17.
- B. The Alternative.
  1. “*No man cared for my soul*,” Psalm 142:4.
  2. “*No man gave unto him*,” Luke 15:16.

#### III. A Good Marriage.

- A. J. Paul Getty – “would trade it all for one good marriage.”
- B. Consider the Scriptures:
  1. Prov. 18:22; Prov. 19:14; Prov. 31:10-13,18-22,27-30.
  2. Eph. 5:25-29.
- C. The best way to **have** a good mate is to **be** a good mate!

#### IV. Good Parents.

- A. By “Parents,” I don’t merely refer to those who “hatched” us.
  1. Some biological parents do not deserve the title “parent,” Rom. 1:31.

- B. Good Parents:
  - 1. Sacrifice for their children, 2 Cor. 12:14.
  - 2. Provide discipline, Prov. 13:24.
  - 3. Demonstrate forgiveness, Luke 15:19-24.
  - 4. Provide guidance, Gen. 18:19.
  - 5. Set a good example to follow, Matt. 5:16.

**V. "Faithful children," Titus 1:6.**

- A. Faithful to:
  - 1. God, Rev. 2:10.
  - 2. Parents, Prov. 10:1.
- B. Contrast Prov. 17:21,25.

**VI. Freedom from Guilt.**

- A. Read Psalm 51:1-4,7,9,12.
- B. Today multitudes are laden with guilt.
  - 1. They flock to psychiatrists, psychologists, and pour out their problems, generally paying "big money" for the counsel given.
  - 2. They purchase drugs and alcohol to forget.
  - 3. They purchase tranquilizers to ease the pain.
  - 4. Some do like Judas, Matt. 27:5.

**VII. A Receptive heart.**

- A. Material riches often hinder the proper reception of the word.
  - 1. Consider Matt. 13:22.
  - 2. Consider Luke 12:16-21.
  - 3. We must have that "*honest and good heart*," Luke 8:15.

**VIII. Hope of Eternal Reward.**

- A. Consider Titus 1:2; Heb. 11:6; I Peter 1:3-4.

**Consider:**

- 1. As stated earlier, all of us are rich materially when compared with the sad state in which many people in the world find themselves.
- 2. But do we have the true riches? Do We have the riches money cannot buy?

--Bobby Witherington, March 8, 2015