

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

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THE RICH

It is easy to want to be rich. You could buy whatever you wanted whenever you wanted it. You could purchase many of the pleasures in life. As a rich person you wouldn't have to worry about paying bills or buying food or where you are going to live. Some of the important people of the Bible were rich. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were rich. Kings David and Solomon were rich. I suspect that Mary, Martha and Lazarus were rich. It is not wrong to be rich.

But Jesus said that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

THE HARVESTER

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Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (Mat. 19:23-26)

It is difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom because entering the kingdom requires faith and trust in God. A typical rich man trusts in his riches. Whenever a problem comes in life, the rich man uses his riches to solve the problem. He doesn't see a need to trust in God. The poor man must trust in the Lord.

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? (Jas. 2:5)

God wants you to trust in Him rather than to trust in yourself or your riches. The poor man must trust in the Lord because he doesn't have any riches to depend upon.

There is no strict definition of who is rich. I have found that people often don't consider themselves rich because they can look at someone else who has more. The one who has more is rich. The person without a house considers the person with a house to be rich. The person without a car considers the person with a car as rich. The person without a savings account in the bank considers the person with a savings account as rich. And so it goes. We compare ourselves to others. They are rich and I am not. But perhaps you should turn that around and realize that compared to someone else, you are rich. If you have any possessions at all, you are rich compared to one who has nothing. And if you are rich, there are things you must be careful to avoid. The apostle Paul instructed Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-19,

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; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1. *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.*

If you are richer than someone else, it is easy to be proud. Somehow you might consider yourself better than those who have less than you do. Do not be haughty because you have more. You are not better in God's eyes because you have more. He is the one who has given you what you have.

That no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (1 Cor. 4:6b-7)

It is somewhat natural to trust that your possessions will shield you from the problems in life.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and 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. (Mat. 6:19-21)

You can lose your possessions due to moth or rust or thieves or any of a number of other reasons. Trust in God rather than in your possessions. Don't make the possessions of this life your treasure; lay up for yourself treasures in heaven.

2. *That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

Seek to be rich in good works. Use your riches to help with the needs of those who have less. Be ready to give and to share. Have compassion on those who have needs that you can supply. If you do, you will be laying up for yourself treasures in heaven.

Compared to someone who has less, you are rich. Do not be proud or trust in your riches. Instead, be rich in good works.

ED ANDERSON
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

PHILIPPIANS 2 (PART I)

*Note: This is a continuation of the study of the book of Philip-
pians that we began in a previous issue.*

*Philippians 2:1-2 - If there be therefore any consolation
in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the
Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye
be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord,
of one mind.*

The beginning of the second chapter of Philippians begins by showing that we need to serve as Christ served (verses 1-18) and to act in a Christ-like manner. Paul implores that we love and that we are of “*one accord, of one mind*”. This is very similar to a passage that was written by Paul in Romans 12:16 when he said “*Be of the same mind one toward another...*”. There are probably many reasons this is repeated but it seems that being able to follow God means to think like each other and have the same goals. This includes worshiping together to achieve those goals. That is why it is so important to meet together and fellowship as we do each week. It helps us to stay on the right path.

Paul continues in the third and fourth verses by making sure that the Philippian people know that nothing should be done with selfish intent but that we should consider the needs of others above our needs. That is another way to show that we care and have the love of God in us. This theme is also presented in Paul's letter to the Galatians. You can see the similarities in the verses below.

Philippians 2:3-4 - Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Galatians 5:26 - Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

It seems to be an important theme and something that is struggled with by many people. It is not always easy to put the needs of others above our own but it is vital to truly living a life that follows the way that Christ lived.

Verses five through eight continues with the idea of being of one mind, but in a different way. Paul uses this to show that we should think like Christ thought when He took His earthly form and was not royalty, or well off, but was a servant. A servant who lived to help others and ended up offering the ultimate sacrifice with His death on the cross.

Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

But Christ was not just an ordinary servant. Paul so eloquently expresses in the next few verses that Christ is Lord and that we should worship Him in a way that shows our reverence to Him as someone that God exalted above all others.

Philippians 2:9-11 - Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The writer of Hebrews expresses a similar thought.

Hebrews 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 1:4 - Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Paul continues his letter to the Philippian people by commending them for always obeying the will of God but says that they need to be responsible for their own salvation. Making sure that they are aware of what is needed to be saved while knowing that God works through all of us to do His will if we will listen and follow the path that He lays out for us.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

God worketh in you. What a powerful statement when you stop and think about it. God worked in Noah to make sure

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that the ark was built. God worked in Moses to give him strength and courage to lead an Exodus from Egypt. God worked in the disciples to give them knowledge and strength when faced with adversity and even death. God is working in all who believe and obey so that His ultimate goal is achieved.

Philippians 2:14-15 - Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

This verse begins by saying to do everything without murmuring and disputing. Complaining is a major part of why things do not work and why people do not get along. By doing things such as talking bad about people, or about how something is done, we are making situations worse. How are we to be a light if our light is consumed with the darkness of complaining or arguing? We should do all that we can to keep a positive attitude even in the hardest of situations as Paul did.

Philippians 2:16 - Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Paul wants to make sure that all that he has done to further the Gospel of Christ has not been done in vain so that he is able to truly rejoice. He continues his positive attitude even in the face of possible death.

Philippians 2:17-18 - Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Can we say that we joy and rejoice with Paul for the same cause? Can we say that we carry a positive attitude, even in the most challenging times? Things to take with you as you go through your life. More next month.

A. D.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
February 8 - 10	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Bill Prince Jr., Chad Prince, & Brad Prince

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How many times did Noah send out the dove?
2. What was the name of Joseph's (son of Jacob) first born son?
3. What did Samson carry to the top of the hill overlooking Hebron?
4. What was the name of the city where Lydia was converted?
5. What was the name of the prophet who prophesied that Paul would be bound at Jerusalem?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. What did Abraham's son carry for his sacrifice?
THE WOOD (Gen. 22:6)
2. Which Israelite woman had two Moabite daughters-in-law?
NAOMI (Ruth 1:4)
3. In which city was David's throne over Israel?
JERUSALEM (2 Sam. 5:5)
4. What did James' and John's mother ask of Jesus?
FOR HER SONS TO SIT ON JESUS' RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS IN THE KINGDOM (Mat. 20:21)
5. Who looked after the coats of the men who stoned Stephen?
SAUL (Acts 7:58)