

Great Wealth Could Be Coming Your Way

(No Scam and No Joke)

It is not uncommon or infrequent that we get emails that offer hope of making or receiving a lot of money. "Just send me all your personal information and it will be coming your way." Gullible, greedy people fall for the scam and wind up helping to make the scammer wealthy. We must watch out for scams but not let the fact that they are out there keep us from offers that are legitimate. What is being offered to you this day (if you don't have it already) is no joke and no scam. This one I'm talking about is real.

Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth: *"Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth"* (1 Cor. 10:24). This could be taken two ways: 1) seek to TAKE someone else's wealth; or 2) don't just seek wealth for yourself but also for others. The former is what scammers do, but the latter is the obvious truth to Bible students. We are to seek wealth for others. This is not talking about helping others build their bank account or portfolio. It's about helping them become wealthy in a much different and better way. It's about great wealth that is no scam; and with a little help, and some effort on your part, it will easily come your way, if you don't already have it.

2 Cor. 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.*

Clearly, Paul is referring here to becoming RICH (wealthy) and he tells the source of the wealth. Here is a parallel passage to 2 Corinthians 8:9:

2 Cor. 6:10 *As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

Barnes Commentary:

Yet making many rich - Here the apostle means that he and his fellow-laborers, though poor themselves, were the instruments of conferring durable and most valuable possessions on many persons. They had bestowed on them the true riches. They had been the means of investing them with treasures infinitely more valuable than any which kings and princes could bestow. They to whom they ministered were made partakers of the treasure where the moth doth not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

Adam Clark Commentary:

And yet making many rich: are instruments in making many souls rich in things spiritual; by showing them their spiritual poverty, stripping them of what they trusted in, and valued themselves upon; directing them where true riches are, and furnishing them with spiritual knowledge, with the knowledge of things more worth than thousands of gold and silver.

Let's just be clear about the main promise God offers with a passage from the pen of John:

1 John 2:25 *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

We understand that scammers don't offer any evidence or proof of their promise, but God offers much, which we will endeavor to present during this lesson.

When Spiritual Wealth Begins

The spiritual wealth we are talking about begins when one gets into the church, the kingdom of Christ over which He reigns. This kingdom provides great riches for its people: 1) It composes the saved – those who have *repented* and been baptized “*for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38, 47); 2) its king provides guidance, protection, and 24/7 consultation to get help with all your needs (prayer); 3) it offers instructions for the best life on earth; 4) it tells us how to get into God's graces and stay there; and, 5) it gives hope of eternal life in heaven.

In the beginning we suggested that spiritual wealth could be coming your way. But whether it does or not is not determined by the luck of a drawing or a lottery. You simply make the choice that you want the wealth that God offers, and you meet His conditions for receiving it. It is not uncommon for someone who offers to give away something of great value to require *conditions* to receive it and even keep it. Yes, God says

his grace is a *gift*, which is to say you cannot BUY it. Those who boast of faith in Jesus but ignore His word and fail to meet the conditions He stipulated have failed to tap into the great wealth He offers. That grace is a gift does not insinuate that it is given to anyone that asks, as false teachers assert. All should know this because of what Jesus said:

Matt. 7:21 *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Many denominational preachers talk as if they have never heard what we just read. The doctrine of salvation by *faith only*, apart from anything, seems to

be the foundational teaching they are determined to promote. But their building is on the *sand* rather than the *rock*, and it will fall. *Obedience* is not even advocated anymore by many preachers. They label true gospel preachers as **legalist** and being *cultish* when we preach that obedience is required to become a Christian. But we not only do not allow their teaching to influence us, or divert us from the truth, but we expose their error at every opportunity. We continue to preach the truth on obedience that we find in various passages like:

Heb. 5:9 *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*

Great wealth, to include eternal salvation, is promised to those who obey Jesus, but there is no promise to those who do not.

A scammer may promise you riches, but there is no assurance that you will ever see a penny from him. It is more likely he will get YOUR dollars if you do what he says. But the riches God offers are guaranteed.

God’s Riches Are Guaranteed

Matt. 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

The previous verse talks about separation of the sheep from the goats. So, the promise and guarantee is that if

you are a sheep (genuine Christian) you will inherit something that is already prepared for you.

Heb. 7:25 (RV) *Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

This verse promises *uttermost salvation* because of Jesus's *intercession* to God.

Tit. 1:1-3 *“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; 3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”*

This passage assures us that God cannot lie and that the preaching we are to hear and obey in order to receive the promises made even *before the world began*, are truth.

1 John 1:1 is another passage that helps to assure us that the promise of great wealth is genuine.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and

heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Paul testifies about Jesus and the promises he offers: *"We have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."* He says they SAW Him and HEARD Jesus and now are declaring Him and His word unto us.

Material Wealth versus Spiritual Wealth

You may have material wealth, but true happiness, peace and contentment come from spiritual wealth.

"If we have not developed a reservoir of spiritual wealth, no amount of money is likely to make us happy. Spiritual wealth provides faith. It gives us love. It brings and expands wisdom. Spiritual wealth leads to happiness because it guides us into useful or loving relationships." — John Templeton

"Happiness comes from giving, not getting. If we try hard to bring happiness to others, we cannot stop it from coming to us also. To get joy, we must give it, and to keep joy, we must scatter it." — John Templeton

Christians become more *spiritually wealthy* when we work to develop virtues such as kindness, trustworthiness, truthfulness, decisiveness, compassion, honesty, honor, and prayerfulness. Spiritual wealth is within you. It's your peace, contentment, joy

— things that you can always have. True spiritual wealth is something that you can control. Material wealth, on the other hand, tends to fluctuate. It's influenced not only by internal factors, such as poor financial decisions, but external factors like the economy, natural disasters, and other issues beyond your control as well.

Spiritual Wealth Differs from Inner Peace

Spiritual wealth involves connecting with something larger than we are – a higher power we can tap into that gives us access to possessions that man cannot obtain on his own.

Paul makes it clear that spiritual wealth (*all spiritual blessings*) comes from God.

Eph. 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

Let's look now at 3 John 1:2: *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."*

John was praying for his friend, Gaius, that he would prosper and be in good physical health to the same degree as his soul was prospering. It is dangerous when a Christian's material prosperity gets ahead of his spiritual prosperity. Paul warned (1 Tim. 6:9-10), *"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing*

for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

The apostle John said (3 John 1: 4): *“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”* His greatest joy was not that his children were prospering financially, but that they were walking in the truth. This is the same as what he wrote in 1 John 1:7: *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Conclusion

Once you hear the evidence and see the truth and obey it, you have **just begun** to meet the conditions for eternal life in the future (heaven). Paul writes:

1 Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

In this next passage, John notes more evidential facts:

1 John 5:4 *For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith. 5 And who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. 7 And it is the*

Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth. 8 For there are three who bear witness, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and the three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for the witness of God is this, that he hath borne witness concerning his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in him: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he hath not believed in the witness that God hath borne concerning his Son. 11 And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath the life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life. 13 These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

There are two lessons to consider: 1) the wealth that Christ offers and how to get it; and 2) the need for all Christians to share in the wealth by telling others about it.

While others may endeavor to lure people to them, to their schemes, or to some religious cult or fanatic they follow, making great promises, only Jesus has *“the words of eternal life.”*

John 6:68 *Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*