

**“True Wealth!”**  
**1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

**Introduction:**

1. **IE: Who Is Considered Wealthy / Rich Today?**
    - This Is A Great Debate In Our Society / Country Right Now!
      - In Trying To Figure Out Just Who Belongs To The Upper & Middle Class!
      - In Trying To Determine Who Should Pay More In Taxes, Because Apparently They Can Afford It!
    - At What Point / What Dollar Amount Is Someone Considered Rich?
      - Is It \$1 Mill? Is It \$500K? Is It \$250K? Or Even \$100K?
      - Who Is Rich? Who Would You Consider To Be Rich?
      - You Might See Wealth Differently Than I Do!
    - Did You Know That Someone From A Different Country – Like A 3<sup>rd</sup> World Or Developing Country – Sees Wealth Differently Than All Of Us?
      - To Someone From Haiti – Just 700 Miles From The Border Of The US – Where The Average Annual Income Is Just About \$400 - \$500 - YOU & I Are / Am Rich / Wealthy!
        - Even Rich Beyond Some Of Their Imaginations!
      - Who Is Rich?
        - People See Wealth Differently!
  2. This Morning - I Want You To Know That:
    - God Sees Wealth Differently Than All Of Us!
      - God Does Not Determine Wealth / Riches:
        - In Physical Things!
        - In Financial Things!
        - In Material Things!
      - No - God Determines Wealth / Riches:
        - In Spiritual Things!
    - And We Should To!
      - As We Look At 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 - Paul Is Reminding The Church In Corinth & Our Church As Well – That:
        - The Richest / Wealthiest People In The World Are Those Who Have Jesus Christ & Who Are Jesus Christ’s! **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**
        - Read 1:4-9! Pray!
          - **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**
          - Every Member Of The True Church – Those Who Personally Have Jesus Christ As Their Savior From Sin – “Are Enriched By Him!” (1:5)
      - This Means – You Are Rich! You Are Wealthy!
        - Even Beyond Description & Belief!
        - And This Wealth Is Something That Should Help Us Further God’s Work & Mission For Us In This Life / This World!
  3. What Makes Us So Wealthy?
    - Not Physical / Financial / Material Things!
    - But Spiritual Things!
      - 3 Things That Have Been Given To Us By God Himself!
1. **The Wealth Of God’s Grace!**
    - 1:4 - “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ!”
      - After **Praying** For God To Supply Them Grace In 1:3!
      - Now, Paul Is **Thanking / Praising** God For His Grace That He Has Already Supplied / Given For His People!
        - Because It Is God’s Grace That Makes His People Truly Rich / Wealthy!
    - The Praise For God’s Grace!
      - Paul Is Setting A Good Example For Us Here!
      - Even Though The Church In Corinth:
        - Was Having Some Problems!
      - There Is Still So Much To Be Thankful For!
        - Because God Is Still Good!
        - Because God Still Provides His Grace!

- And His Grace Has Made Us All Very Rich!
- The Picture Of God's Grace!
  - What Is It About God's Grace That Makes Us More Rich / More Wealthy Than Even Bill Gates / Warren Buffet?
  - Because More Than Any Money You / I Can Have:
    - It Is Only God's Grace That Can Give:
  - Real Help For His Church!
    - Money Can Be Used To Help Pay The Bills / Feed The Hungry / House The Homeless!
    - But To Overcome Sin / Stagnation / Sickness!
      - We Need God's Grace!
    - Money Can't Change Hearts!
      - Only God's Grace Can!
  - Real Health For His Church!
    - Money Can Be Used To Pay Doctors / Buy Expensive Medical Equipment / Medical Research!
    - But To Grow Spiritually - "In Grace & In The Knowledge Of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!"
      - We Need God's Grace!
    - Money Can't Heal Hearts With Spiritual Needs!
      - Only God's Grace Can!
  - Real Hope For His Church!
    - The Hope That Comes From Money Is Temporary!
    - The Hope That Comes From God's Grace Is Timeless!
  - God's Grace Has Made Us All Very Rich!
- The Provision Of God's Grace!
  - How Have We Received God's Grace?
  - "The Grace Of God Which Is Given You By Jesus Christ!"
    - Or In / Through!
  - This Grace – That We Need!
    - This Grace – That Provides Help / Health / Hope!
    - This Grace - Has Already Been Provided To Us Through Jesus Christ!
      - And We've Been Rich / Wealthy All Along!
  - **IE:** Have You Ever Been At A Store - Feel Through Your Pockets Or Purse - Find A \$10 Or \$20 Bill? May Have Forgotten It Before! May Even Have Gone Through The Wash! But The Money Has Been There All Along!
    - Need To See This Wealth We Have As Christians!
    - Our Riches Have Been There All Along!
      - Because Our Wealth Comes Through Jesus!
- This Is Why Paul Thanked & Praised God!
  - Why We Should Too! Because: ***Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!***
  - Because We Have Received God's Grace Through Jesus!

## 2. ***The Wealth Of God's Gifts!***

- 1:5-7 - "That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; / Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: / So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!"
  - IE:** One Way To Become Rich / Wealthy In The World Is To Have A Rich / Wealthy Parent! If You Are An Heir, You Can Have A Fortune Without Doing Anything – Just For Being Someone!
    - This Is The Case For Christians As Well!
    - Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World, Not Because Of What They Have Done, But Because Of What Jesus Has Done For Them & What Jesus Has Given To Them!
    - Our Wealth Is God's Gift!
- God's Gifts Are Plentiful!
  - 1:5 - "That In Everything Ye Are Enriched By Him, In All Utterance, And In All Knowledge!"
  - Clearly Stated:
    - "In Everything Ye Are Enriched By Him!"
    - Because Of / Through Jesus – We Have Everything That We Need!
    - 2 Peter 1:3 - "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness!"
  - We Are Rich!

- Right Now! May Be Below The American Financial Poverty Line – Christians Are Never Below The Spiritual Poverty Line!
- Because Our Wealth Is Not Gained By Us!
- Our Wealth Is Given To Us! By Him! Jesus!
- 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!”
- For Example: Find Two Special Gifts That Make Us Rich!
  - “In All Utterance!”
    - Or In Every Word!
    - God Has Given Us His Word To Study!
      - What A Gift! How Much Have We Been Given To Learn!
    - God Has Given Us His Word To Share!
      - “Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give!”
  - “In All Knowledge!”
    - God Has Given Us A Great Knowledge!
    - About His Plan & His Promises!
    - By Given Us His Spirit!
      - Who - It Was Promised - “Will Guide You Into All Truth!” (John 16:13)
- We Have An Even Greater Share Of These Gifts, It Seems!
  - And Yet We Are Not Aware Of Them Or Use Them!
- God’s Gifts Can Be Possessed!
  - 1:6 - “Even As The Testimony Of Christ Was Confirmed In You!”
  - When Does A Christian Become Rich?
    - At The Moment They Are Saved!
    - You Have Everything You Truly Need – In Christ!
    - How Do We Know This?
  - Here - “The Testimony Of Christ!”
    - Is The Witness / Message About Christ – Gospel!
  - And When Is The Gospel “Confirmed” In Someone?
    - When Is It Established / Made Sure?
    - When They Are Saved!
    - Why They Believe / Receive The Truth Of Jesus!
  - So: When You Were Saved, Paul Says:
    - You Were Enriched! In Everything!
    - Especially In These Spiritual Gifts!
    - This Is Why: **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**
    - And The Wealth Of God Can Be Your Wealth!
      - Through Faith In His Son!
- God’s Gifts Have A Purpose!
  - 1:7 - “So That Ye Come Behind In No Gift; Waiting For The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
    - IE: Ever Known A Miser? Knew A Woman Who Was Worth Millions - Good Customer - Very Sour, Stingy, Demanding Person - Applied For A Loan - Looked At Taxes - Found Out Why She Was Rich & At The Same Time Why She Was Miserable - She Never Gave Her Money Away To Help Others - No Charity Giving / No Church Giving!
  - The Gifts That God Has Freely Given To Us Have A Purpose!
    - To Be Used While We Await The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Not Passively! Actively!
    - To Be Used In Service To & For The Edification / Building Up Of Each Other Within The Church!
    - Yes - Find In Chapter 12 - Our Gifts May Be Different - But The Same Purpose!
    - 1 Peter 4:10 - “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God!”
  - Need To Be Diligent With Our Gifts!
  - Need To Be Distributing Our Gifts!
  - Need To Be Developing Our Gifts!
    - Don’t Be Misery Christians With The Gifts Given!
- **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**

### 3. **The Wealth Of God’s Goal!**

- 1:8-9 - “Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. / God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord!”
  - **IE:** While Working As An Investment Advisor - One Thing We Were Told To Focus On With A Client Were Their Goals! Not A Number – But A Dream! What They Wanted To Be / Do With Their Money!
    - Some Lofty Goals! Travel The World! Buy A House On An Island Somewhere! Start Their Own Business! Save For Children / Grandchildren’s Education! On & On! None Of These Goals Can Compare To The Goal That God Has For His People!
  - Another Big Difference:
    - These Goals Were Just Dreams!
    - God’s Goal Will Be Reality!
    - What Is God’s Goal For Us? That Makes Us Rich?
- Our Future Is Rich!
  - 1:8 - “Who Shall Confirm You Unto The End, That Ye May Be Blameless In The Day Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
    - The Future Of Christians Is Rich / Bright!
  - At The End Of This World!
    - “In The Day Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
    - In A Day That Belongs To Jesus:
      - Look At What He Does For His People!
  - He “Will Confirm You Blameless!”
    - That Is – Free From Any Charge!
    - After All – This Is Why Jesus Died In The First Place!
    - Colossians 1:21-22 - “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled / In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight!”
  - How Can This Be? How Can This Happen?
    - Even When I Fall & Fail In My Walk With God?
    - Because - Not About Us - But About Him!
- God’s Faithfulness Is Rich!
  - 1:9 - “God Is Faithful!”
    - Or - “Faithful God!”
    - After Paul Explains About God’s Grace To Us!
    - Now Paul Exclaims The Faithfulness Of God!
      - Which Makes All Of This Possible!
  - So - He Is Worthy Of Our Continued Faith & Trust!
    - Not Our Faithfulness That Makes Us Rich!
    - But God’s Faithfulness That Makes Us Rich!
  - “Faithful God!”
- God’s Fellowship Is Rich!
  - “By Whom Ye Were Called Unto The Fellowship Of His Son Jesus Christ Our Lord!”
  - All Of Our Wealth / Riches Come Through Jesus!
    - But Our Greatest Wealth Is Jesus!
    - Because We Have Been Called To Participate In All Of The Benefits & Blessings That Jesus Has!
  - **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**
    - Because All Of Our Riches Come Through Jesus Christ!

**Conclusion:**

1. So: Who Is Rich?
  - The Next Time This Question / Debate Occurs:
    - Remember That If You Are A Believer / Follower Of Jesus Christ – “Ye Are Enriched By Him!”
2. And Just Because:
  - Your Income May Fall Below The Poverty Line!
  - Your Mortgage Is Worth More Than Your House Is Worth!
  - Your Investments Are Producing A Chart That Looks Like A Roller-Coaster!
  - Your Net Worth Is Made Up With A Lot Of Red Ink!
  - **Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!**
    - Because You Have:

- God's Grace!
- God's Gifts!
- And God's Goal For Your Future! & It Is Bright!

3. You Might Remember The Name: Patrick Henry!

- One Of The Founding Fathers Of The United States!

- He Was The One Who Said The Famous Statement: "Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death!"

- He Was Also A Fervent Christian Man!

- Who Understood True Wealth!

- According To One Source, This Is What He Wrote In His Will:

- "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed!" (Billy Graham)

**\* *Christians Are The Wealthiest People In The World!***

\* "I'm A Child Of The King!"

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