

Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

GEN, KJV, NKJV works, and tribulation, and poverty

ESV tribulation and your poverty

CSB affliction and poverty

In this life, the disciples of Jesus Christ can expect this:

work, tribulation, poverty

Yet, in ways that cannot be seen in this life, the disciples of Jesus Christ can expect this:

to be rich

**works [G2041]** work [G2038]

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good **works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1 Peter 2:11-12 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good **works**, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Works more generally of men

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to **dress [H5647 abad to work - LXX G2038]** it and to keep it.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, **working** with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and **to work** with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not **work**, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, **working** not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they **work**, and eat their own bread.

Works more generally of women

1 Timothy 5:9-10 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good **works**; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good **work**.

**tribulation** CSB: affliction G2347 *thlipsis* lit. pressure

Acts 7:9-10 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, 10 And delivered him out of all his **afflictions**, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

What were Joseph's afflictions?

**poverty** G4432 *ptochēia* from G4433 *ptochēuo*

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.

What characterized our Lord's poverty?

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

Hebrews 10:32-34 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

**but thou art rich** G4145 *plousios* from G4149 *ploutos*

James 2:5 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?

1. rich during this life with things that money can't buy
2. rich in the life to come

Rich during this life with things that money can't buy

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their **joy** and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their **liberality**.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 2:2-3 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all **riches of the full assurance of understanding**, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all **the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.

1 Timothy 6:17-18 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**; 18 That they do good, that they be **rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming **the reproach of Christ greater riches** than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Illus. When I was a boy, I once asked my mother, "Mom, are we rich?" She answered, "I'm rich, Jeff, because I have you."

Rich in the life to come.

Luke 16:19-25 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Gill:

they were rich, in faith, and heirs of a kingdom, though poor in this world; they were rich with the riches of Christ, with the blessings of the covenant, with the graces of the Spirit, and in good works; they were kings and priests unto God, had a kingdom of grace here, and a right to the kingdom of glory hereafter; and were heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ,

Gill:

Good works, as before in Rev 2:2

Clarke:

I know all that ye have done

Gill:

which was true in a literal sense, through the spoiling of their goods, to which they were exposed for the profession of Christ: nothing is more contemptible among men than poverty, yet Christ takes notice of it, and owns his people in it; for this poverty came not by sin, but by sufferings for his sake