

RICHES

To many the word "riches" suggests only acquired wealth in the form of bank accounts, stocks and bonds, houses and lands, and material comforts and luxuries. The Bible speaks of "True riches" of "Durable riches" and of "Uncertain riches," which leads us to decide that there is that which is not true and enduring. Cambridge Bible defines "True riches" as that which is true, i. e. real and not evanescent; and adds, "earthly riches are neither true nor ours." Horton defines riches as "The true personal possessions of character and goodness which, in the eyes of Jesus constitute riches." And Thomas Carlyle says, "The wealth of a man consists in the number of things he loves and blesses, and in the number of things he is loved and blessed by.

When we think of the unsearchable riches of Christ and consider the vast wealth not measured by the dollar sign, and see the possibility of being rich without money, we understand the seeming paradox of Proverbs 13:7, "There is that maketh rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." And of the Apostle Paul when he speaks of himself "As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

But it is concerning riches in the usual sense of the word that we are thinking just now. It is a common saying that "Money is power" and without it man is considered little worth in the world. Human society sanctions the saying when she concedes her highest rank to those who have the greatest revenues secured to them.

The wise man said, "The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit." And again, "Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor." The Psalmist tells us what is the end of the man who "trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthened himself in his wickedness."

Many are accustomed to think that the rich may have all that heart desires and know no disappointment, sorrow, or want; but in Luke 1:53 we read, "The rich he hath sent empty away." And in Luke 18:23 one young man went away from the presence of Jesus very sorrowful for he was very rich and, as the context gives us to understand, was not willing to place his riches at the Master's disposal.

It is not so much how much a man has as how he acquired it; his attitude toward it, and his manner of using it. In I Chron. 29:12 we learn that "Riches are from God" and in Deut. 8:18, it is God that "giveth thee power to get wealth." But "he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." The Apostle Paul, in writing to his son in the Gospel said, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Then follows the admonition, "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." And the Prophet Jeremiah gave the warning, "Let not the rich man glory in his riches." And Solomon said, "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall." The

Psalmist said, "If riches increase set not your heart upon them."

Ill-gotten wealth held as one's own and hoarded for self alone, cannot be a blessing to him who holds it nor to others. "It is not success to give two million for one," yet how many are doing a more foolish thing! "For thirty pieces, Judah sold himself not Christ" and men today are sacrificing principle, selling their souls, misgiving their chance of heaven for a few dollars. Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." "Riches profit not in the day of wrath."

Many like the man in the parable in Luke 12:16-21, think of **My** fruits, **My** goods, **My** barns. They seem to think there is no place to store goods except in barns, and that no one shall share the benefits with them. When opportunity offers to help spread and support the Gospel or feed and clothe the destitute they are ready to say like Nabal, Shall I take **My** bread, and **My** water, and **My** flesh that I have killed for **My** shearers, and give it unto men whom I know not whence they be?

To the rich man in the parable, God said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided," And Jesus adds, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." "There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt" (Eccl. 5:13). "He heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them" (Psa. 39:6).

Earthly possessions in the hands of those who recognize God's ownership, and hold them as a trust from Him, and use them for the furtherance of the Gospel as directed in His Word, not only bring returns in this life but enrich the giver throughout eternity and bring untold blessing and profit to others—Good Tidings.

DEEDS THAT TESTIFY

"And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same" (Luke 6:33)

Jesus made it very clear that unless the one who claimed to be His follower was more sacrificing than the average man, he lacked that which proved his claim. And this we find to be true everywhere and among all classes of people. We have met many good people who seemed to know Christ in a way, but their lack of giving to the needy and to God's work in spreading the Gospel seemed to cast a shadow of doubt upon the genuineness of their experience. God's true people are sacrificing. Close-fisted professors, no matter what grace they testify to, will, it seems, be ruled out of the kingdom of God by the above Scripture.

Good deeds are so rare among the professed children of God that it is hard to convince a gainsaying world of the truth of Christianity. It seems that every one is for himself. Moneyed folk would rather spend their thousands upon themselves needlessly, than help others in less prosperous circumstances. If they do give, they expect as much in return some day, even as the sinner, who sometimes gives to make himself a name. Usually they have some ax to grind. seldom

do people give without sounding a bell of some kind.

Not alone is this lack of sacrifice found among the laity, but among the preachers also. We have met many able ministers, but the manner in which they court the common idol, the American dollar, put a damper on their words, and they become fruitless. They beg for money until the Spirit is grieved. They must have the promise of so much, or they will not preach. They love to quote the Scripture, "The workman is worthy of his hire," but according to our text, their reward will be scant unless they do something out of love to God for which they receive no pay. Many of these preachers must be entertained in a hotel, instead of in the home of some of the saints. The preacher must have the best, and would be unwilling to put up with what is offered in the home.

We often wonder if the covetous spirit among ministers is not the cause of the lack of sacrifice among the people who profess holiness. Service to be rewarded in glory must exceed the service of the world.—Good Tidings.

SOME FACTS CONCERNING CRIME

We give below some statements made recently in a radio talk by W. H. Ellis, of the American Bar Association's Crime Commission. These findings not only serve to illuminate the question; they call for a remedy, and the country will await with great interest the outcome of the Commission recently appointed by President Hoover to study this whole question of lawlessness.

"The money cost of crime in the United States is thirteen billion dollars a year, or approximately the total of the war debt.

"Twelve thousand murders are committed annually in America, fifty times the number recorded in Great Britain.

"There are thirty thousand criminals at large in New York and ten thousand in Chicago.

"Two-thirds of the crimes committed in the United States are committed by persons born in Europe or by their immediate descendants.

"Discussing the causes, the speaker said that they go farther back than either the World War or prohibition. There has been a steady progressive increase in crime and disrespect for the law in this country for thirty years. The foremost cause is the tremendous growth in wealth, which has made for wastefulness and extravagance. Then inventions have greatly aided the criminal, such as the automobile, the automatic gun, and smoke screen."

The above from "The Wesleyan Methodist" presents some facts that demand serious consideration. Old time religion, stricter immigration laws, and more speedy execution of justice, in our opinion, will greatly aid in lessening such conditions.—Gospel Banner.

The greatest friend of truth is time; her greatest enemy is prejudice; and her constant companion is humility.—Selected.

Drop that check for missions into the post office today. Make haste! You may be in eternity tomorrow. The eye of the Judge is upon you. The wailing cry of the heathen is wafted across the sea to your ears. Hurry! Hurry!—Herald of Holiness.