

RICH IN HEAVEN

Our lesson text compares two classes of men on opposite socio-economic sides: one is classified as poor and the other rich.

They are also classified on opposite spiritual sides: one is classified as believer (the brother/ ho adelphos) and the other an unbeliever (not a brother).

(Heb.2:11) “For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are **all from one Father**; for which reason **He (Christ) is not ashamed to call them brethren.**”

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletic points.

- (Jas.1:9) Believer Poor in world but rich in Christ
- (Jas.1:10a) Unbeliever Rich in world but poor without Christ
- (Jas.1:10b-11) Botany illustration of rich unbeliever:

There is also an interesting aorist verbal series in the botany illustration: Sun **rises** (anatello/ a.a.ind) and **burning heat withers** (xeraino/ a.a.ind) and grass and flower **falls off** (ekpipto/ a.a.ind) and the beauty of its appearance **is destroyed** (apollumi/ a.m.ind) -” **SO TOO THE RICH MAN.**”

There are two important **verbal connections with the rich man**:

- He will pass away (parerchomai/ f.m.ind3ps)
- He will fade away (maraino/ f.p.ind.3ps).”

**This lesson will study three aspects of the promise that every believer rich in Christ
WILL BE RICH IN HEAVEN.**

1. **After studying our lesson text, Dr. Randolph Yeager asked an important question, “Why should we rejoice over the wealth which we cannot keep and ignore the riches which we cannot lose?”**

Jesus reached a similar conclusion in the story of Luke 16:19-31 by contrasting the same type of two men as in our lesson text.

- Contrast of two men’s lives before death (Lk.16:19-21)
 - Contrast two men’s death (Lk.16:22)
 - Contrast two men’s lives after death (Lk.16:23-26)
 - Contrast of each person’s choice about his type of life after death (Lk.16:27-31; Matt.16:26).
2. **James is dealing with the New Covenant believer who has been baptized by the Holy Spirit into an eternal position “in Christ” at the moment of grace salvation.**

Rich in Christ means Rich in Heaven (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Jas.1:9).

(Gal.3:27) “For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ.”;

(Rom.6:3-5) **Positional Sanctification** - Just one of [eight Works of The Holy Spirit](#)

(Gal.3:26) “For you are **all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Gal.3:2-3; Acts 19:2)

(2 Cor.5:17) “Therefore if (1st Class Condition = and it’s true) anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” [Positional Truth/ [50 Things](#)]

(1 Cor.12:13) “For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were **all made to drink of one Spirit.**”

(Gal.3:28) “There is neither Jews nor Greeks, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are one in Christ Jesus.**” [James would add - neither rich nor poor.]

3. The Church Age Believer’s status privileges in Christ trumps every status the world could offer (Matt.4:8-10; Matt.16:26).

[20 status privileges](#) are given to every New Covenant (NC) Church Age Believer (CAB) at moment of grace salvation.

STATUS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ambassador | (2 Cor.5:17-21) |
| 2. Beloved | (Rom.1:7) |
| 3. Brethren | (1 Thess.1:4) |
| 4. Child of Promise | (Rom.9:8-9) |
| 5. Joint-heir | (Rom.8:15-17) |
| 6. Firstborn | (Heb.12:23) |
| 7. Priest | (1 Pet.2:5, 9) |
| 8. Saint | (2 Thess.1:10-12) |
| 9. Son of God | (1 John 3:1-3) |
| 10. Son of Light | (Eph.5:8-9) |

PRIVILEGE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 11. Bond-slave of Christ | (Gal.1:10) |
| 12. Calling | (1 Cor.1:7-9) |
| 13. Citizens of Heaven | (Phil.3:20-21) |
| 14. Chosen | (Eph.1:4-5) |
| 15. Escrow Inheritance | (1 Pet.1:3-4) |
| 16. Living stones in house of God | (1 Pet.4-5) |
| 17. Members of body of Christ | (1 Cor.12:12-27) |
| 18. New Creation | (2 Cor.5:17) |
| 19. Possessor of Eternal Life | (1 John 5:11-13) |
| 20. Righteousness | (2 Cor.5:21) |

These 20 Status Privileges are one reason Yeager asked, “**Why should we rejoice over the wealth which we cannot keep and ignore the riches which we cannot lose?**”

Every believer becomes **RICH IN HEAVEN** the moment he believes the gospel of grace salvation.

(James 2:5)

“Listen, my beloved brethren: **did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom** which He promised to those who love Him?”