

He who Was Rich became Poor

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"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though **He was rich**, yet for your sakes **He became poor**, so that through **His poverty you (we) might become rich**."
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

Rich: from the Greek word ***plousios*** an adjective which means: rich, wealthy; properly - fully abounding in abundant resources and supply; of Christ, "although as the (pre-incarnate Word without-flesh) He (Jesus) formerly abounded in the riches of a heavenly condition; but by assuming human nature (flesh) He entered into a state of (earthly) poverty," - as stated in 2 Corinthians 8:9 (Thayer's Greek Lexicon).

Was: from the Greek word ***on*** a verb which means: being, existing, to be, to exist; in context - past tense in the sense that He gave up His 'rich' state of existence that He had with the Father in heaven prior to becoming earthly poor.

Poor: from the Greek word ***epitochousen*** a verb which means: he-became-poor, from ***ptoxeuo*** which means: to be a beggar; to become utterly poor (or destitute); hence, to become extremely vulnerable; is only used in 2 Cor 8:9 of the physical situations Christ voluntarily experienced in His salvation mission here on earth.

Poverty: from the Greek word ***ptocheia*** a noun which means: poverty, the state of being utterly poor. Destitution; the condition of one being destitute of riches and abundance.

Rich: from the Greek word ***ploutesete*** a verb which means: to-be-made-rich; to obtain many resources; to be richly supplied: to be made affluent in resources, whether material things, or with non-material attributes. In context: speaking of the riches believers have in Christ Jesus.

The richness of Christ's pre-incarnate existence within the Kingdom of God, is being contrasted with His poverty during His human sojourn on earth. The context is that Jesus gave up the riches He had in heaven, and took on the relative poverty of a human existence **so that we** who believe might obtain riches in His eternal Kingdom. Consider the following:

"I (Paul) ..., Cease not to give thanks **for you**, making mention of you in my prayers; so that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **Glory**, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (of Jesus); that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power **towards us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power, which He (the Father) brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own Right Hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and has put all things under His (Jesus) feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church," (Ephesians 1:16-22)

The blessing is that Jesus has gained riches that He did not previously have in heaven! **We** who have put our faith in Jesus are now part the riches of Christ's inheritance from the Father!! And it is truly marvelous in our eyes!

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'You (Jesus the Lamb) are worthy to take the book, and to open it's seals: for **You were slain, and have redeemed us to God** by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **and has made us unto our God kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth;' (and again) 'Worthy is the Lamb (Jesus) who was slain **to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing....**,' (and again) '**Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power**, be unto Him (the Father) who sits upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb (Jesus) forever and ever.'" (see Revelation 5:9-10, 12-13)

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The riches of Christ Jesus also includes **those riches of Glory** that were Christ's in the beginning with the Father, before Creation, and of which He has now multiplied at the Right Hand of God the Father. Jesus spoke of this in His memorable prayer the Father:

“Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You. You have given Him power over all flesh (people), so that He may give eternal life to as many (people) as You have given to Him (to Jesus). And this is Life Eternal, **that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.** I have glorified You on the earth: I have finished the work which You gave Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me with Your own Self with the glory which I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your Name unto the men whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me; and they have kept Your word. ... I pray not for the world, but for those whom You have given Me; **for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine;** and I am **glorified** (~ made rich) in them.” (John 17:1-6, 9-10)

To accomplish this Jesus had to put on the poverty of becoming a human servant, destined for the Cross. Consider the following:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being **in the form of God,** thought it not robbery **to be equal with God;** but He made Himself **of no reputation,** and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** Therefore, **God has also highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name;** so that **at the Name of Jesus** every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.**” (Philippians 2:4-11)

The fact that Jesus also became materially poor, and owned no home, riches, or wealth is clearly revealed in a statement spoken by Jesus Himself:

“ And Jesus said unto him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; **but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head.**' ” (Luke 9:58)

But in Heaven Jesus Has Great Riches:

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of Man** came with the clouds of heaven, **and came to the Ancient of Days (God the Father),** and they brought Him (Jesus) near before Him (the Father). And there was given to Him (to Jesus) **dominion, and Glory, and a Kingdom,** so that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him. And His Dominion is an everlasting Dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)

It is as it says: “Your Kingdom is an **Everlasting Kingdom,** and Your **Dominion endures throughout all generations.**” (Psalm 145:13)

“God, ..., has in these last days spoken unto us through His Son, whom He has appointed Heir of All Things, through whom also He made the worlds; and who being the **Brightness of His (God's) Glory,** and **the Express Image of His (God's) Person,** and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the Right Hand of the Majesty on High; being made so much better than the angels, as He (Jesus) has by inheritance obtained a more excellent Name than they (the angels). (Hebrews 1:2-4)

The richness of who Christ Jesus is in Himself, and in the Father, is thus infinitely greater than all the riches and richness that exists within the physical realm of God's creation.

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As mentioned above, the context is that Jesus gave up riches He had in heaven, and took on the poverty of a human existence **so that we** who believe might obtain riches. Jesus gave up His rich state of existent in heaven and became poor for our sakes; so that we who once lived in the death of spiritual poverty – **might become rich in Christ Jesus** with with the riches of His eternal Kingdom! Consider the following wonderful truths:

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, that you be reconciled to God. For He (the Father) has made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to be sin **for us**; so that **we** might be made **in Him (in Christ Jesus) the righteousness of God**. We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that you receive not the grace of God in vain. For He says, *'I have heard you in an acceptable time, and in the day of salvation have I helped you'* (from Isaiah 49:8). Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, **now is the day of salvation**. We give no offense in any thing, so that the ministry be not blamed. But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned; **by the Lord of Truth, by the Power of God, by the armor of righteousness** on the right hand and on the left, By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; **as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.**” (2 Cor. 5:20 to 6:10)

In and through Jesus we are made thus made rich:

“In Him (in Jesus) **we have also obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His own will; so that we, who first trusted in Christ, should be to the praise of His glory; in whom you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; and in whom also after you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption **of the purchased possession**, unto the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:11-14)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has caused us to be born again unto a lively hope **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to **an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**; and who are kept by the power of God through faith for a salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**” (1 Peter 1:3-5)

In Jesus' prayer to the Father He said “Nor do I pray for these alone, **but for those also who shall believe on Me** through their word; so that they all may be one; as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; so that they also may be one in us; so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. **And the glory which You gave to Me I have given to them; that they may be one, even as we are One; I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them, as You have loved Me.**” (John 17:20-23)

Jesus plainly promised to His disciples the riches that come with Eternal Life in Him:

“Then Peter began to say unto Him (to Jesus), 'Lo, we have left all, and have followed You.' And Jesus answered and said, 'Truly I say unto you, there is no man who has left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's, but **he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time**, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; **and in the world to come eternal life.**” (Mark 10:28-30)

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Just as the saints in Christ are part of the riches of **His inheritance**; and just as the LORD God was the inheritance of the tribe of Levi; so also is the Father and Son are the greatest. and present, richness of our inheritance! Consider the following:

“At that time the LORD **separated the tribe of Levi**, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto Him, and to bless in His Name, unto this day. Therefore, Levi has no part nor inheritance with his brethren (on the land); but **the LORD is his inheritance**, according as the LORD Your God promised him.” (Deuteronomy 18:8-9)

“I cried unto You, O LORD: I said, 'You are **my refuge and my portion** in the land of the living.’” (Psalm 142:5)

“Whom do have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside You. My flesh and My heart fails; but God is the strength of my heart, **and my portion forever.**” (Psalm 73:25-26)

“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless **I live**; yet not I, **but Christ lives in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.**” (Galatians 2:20)

“If you then are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the Right Hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and **your life is hid with Christ in God**. When Christ, **who is our life**, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4)

A Promise from the Son:

“Come, you blessed by My Father, **inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**” (Matthew 25:34)

A Promise from the Father:

“Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, **and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And He who sits upon the throne said, 'Behold, **I make all things new..** And He said unto me, 'Write: for these words are true and faithful.' And He said unto me, 'It is done. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.** I will give unto him who is thirsty of the fountain of the Water of Life freely. **He who overcomes shall inherit all things;** and I will be His God, and he shall be My son.” (Revelation 21:3-7) (Amen, and Amen !!)

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**Jesus became poor so that we could become rich in Him;
The Father accomplished this in Christ Jesus when He raised Him from the dead!
The Father has now highly exalted Jesus, and given Him a Name above every name!**

**Worthy is the Lamb Jesus, who was slain, to receive power, and wisdom,
and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessings, and Riches forever!**

**Lord Jesus we are the riches of Your inheritance!
And You are the Riches of our inheritance!**

Thank You Lord Jesus for our marvelous, wonderful, and amazing Inheritance in You!!