

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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## Are You Sure You Want to Get Rich?



When I was a young man, I used to tell my friends, "If a millionaire offered me a couple of million dollars, I would tell them not to make the check out to me. I do not want it but make it out to the charities of my choice."

I still feel that way. I know what it is like to be poor, but I also know what it is like to have sufficient. Why would I not want to be rich besides the fact that I do not need it to be happy and content? The Bible gives me many reasons to show why being rich is not all it seems to be.

**1. God is the one who gives me power to get wealth and when He gives it, there is no sorrow with it.** Deuteronomy 8:18, "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth*, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day."

Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

**2. There is a danger that if I got wealthy I would forget God.** Proverbs 30:7-9, "7 Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die: 8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: 9 **Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.**"

Deuteronomy 6:11-15, "11 **And houses full of all good things**, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 **Then beware lest thou forget the LORD**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. 14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; 15 (For the LORD thy God *is* a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth."

**3. There is a danger that I would deny God.** Deuteronomy 32:15, "But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: **thou art waxen fat**, thou art grown thick, thou art covered *with fatness*; **then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**"

Matthew 19:20-24, "20 The young man saith unto him, All these things

have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. 22 **But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.** 23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.** 24 And again I say unto you, **It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**" (Rich young ruler)

**4. There is a danger that I would credit my wealth to my own talents and abilities.** 1 Corinthians 4:7, "For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now **if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?**

1 Chronicles 29:12-13, "12 **Both riches and honour come of thee**, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 **Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.**"

Deuteronomy 8:17-19, "17 **And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.** 18 **But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy

fathers, as *it is* this day. 19 **And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you** this day that ye shall surely perish."

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**, "23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, **let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD** which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD."

**Daniel 4:30-31**, "30 The king spake, and said, **Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?** 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; **The kingdom is departed from thee.**"

**5. I would never be able to rest and sleep. Ecclesiastes 5:11-14**, "11 **When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?** 12 The sleep of a labouring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much: **but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.** 13 There is a sore evil *which* I have seen under the sun, *namely*, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. 14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and *there is* nothing in his hand."

**6. I would not know if my friends loved me or my money. Proverbs 14:20**, "The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: **but the rich *hath* many friends.**"

**Luke 15:13, 29**, "13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 29 And

he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, **that I might make merry with my friends:**"

Remember the prodigal sons and his friends. **Proverbs 19:4**, "**Wealth maketh many friends**; but the poor is separated from his neighbour."

**7. I would never know if my sweetheart was sincere or a gold digger. Judges 16:4-5, 16-17**, "4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength *lieth*, and by what *means* we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: **and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.** 16 **And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; 17 That he told her all his heart**, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I *have been* a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

Remember Delilah.

**8. My pride may get the best of me. Ezekiel 28:5**, "By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, **and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:**"

**1 Timothy 6:17-18**, "17 **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;**

**9. I would be suspicioned of arrogance, deceit, swindling, and dishonest practices; get envied.**

**Proverbs 18:23**, "The poor useth intreaties; **but the rich answereth roughly.**"

**10. It may cause me to show favoritism and insult the poor. James 2:1-9**, "1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, **with respect of persons.** 2 For if there come unto your assembly **a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place;** and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 **Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?** 5 Harken, 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? 6 But ye have despised the poor. **Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? 7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?** 8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: 9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

**11. I may end up greedy and my wealth may testify against me. James 5:1-5**, "1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. 2 **Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you**, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 **Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth:** and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

**12. I may be tempted to get richer quick.**

**Proverbs 21:5-8**, “5 The thoughts of the diligent *tend* only to plenteousness; **but of every one that is hasty only to want.** 6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. 7 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment. 8 The way of man *is* froward and strange: but as *for* the pure, his work *is* right.”

**Proverbs 28:20-22**, “20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. 21 To have respect of persons *is* not good: **for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.** 22 He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.”

**13. It may bring me trouble to my family.**

**Proverbs 15:27**, “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.”

**14. I may be tempted to take bribes and not be just.** **Proverbs 17:23**, “A wicked *man* taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.”

**15. It may cause me to lie.** **Proverbs 19:22**, “The desire of a man *is* his kindness: and a poor man *is* better than a liar.”

**Proverbs 28:6-8**, “6 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his ways*, though he be rich. 7 Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that *is* a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father. 8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.”

**16. It may cause me to not be blessed.** **Proverbs 20:21**, “An inheritance *may be* gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.”

**17. It may cause me to oppress the poor.** **Proverbs 22:16**, “He that oppresseth the poor to increase his *riches*, and he that giveth to the rich, *shall surely come to want.*”

**1 John 3:17-18**, “17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

**18. I may forget that riches have wings.** **Proverbs 23:4-5**, “4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. 5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which *is* not? **for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.**”

**19. It may cause me to run with the greedy.** **Proverbs 29:24**, “Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth *it* not.”

**20. It leads me into temptation.** **1 Timothy 6:9**, “But 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.”

**21. It may cause me to err from the faith as you cannot serve two masters.** **1 Timothy 6:10**, “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.”

**Matthew 6:24-26**, “24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet

your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

**22. It may cut my life short.** **Proverbs 28:16**, “The prince that wanteth understanding *is* also a great oppressor: **but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.**”

**23. Riches are not a blessing in the end.** **Ecclesiastes 5:13-16**, “13 There is a sore evil *which* I have seen under the sun, *namely*, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. 14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and *there is* nothing in his hand. 15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. 16 And this also *is* a sore evil, *that* in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?”

**Ecclesiastes 6:1-2**, “1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it *is* common among men: 2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil disease.”

**Proverbs 22:1**, “A good name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”

**24. The rich still die.** **Mark 8:36**, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

**Luke 16:22-23**, “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.”

**James 1:10-12**, “10 But the rich, in that he *is* made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall

pass away. 11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. 12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

**25. I could pass it on to an unknown person causing me to be a poor steward of what God entrusted to me.**

**Psalms 39:6**, "Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: **he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.**"

**Luke 12:18-22**, "18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 **But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** 21 **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.** 22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on."

**Psalms 49:10**, "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise **the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.**"

**Proverbs 13:22**, "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and **the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.**"

**26. To trust in wealth is foolishness.** **Psalms 49:6**, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;"

**Psalms 52:6-7**, "6 The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: 7 **Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in**

**the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.**"

**Psalms 62:10-12**, "10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, **set not your heart upon them.** 11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God. 12 Also unto thee, O Lord, *belongeth* mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work."

**Proverbs 13:7**, "There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches."

**27. I cannot take it with me.** **Ecclesiastes 5:15**, "As he came forth of his mother's womb, **naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.**"

**1 Timothy 6:7**, "For we brought nothing into *this* world, **and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**"

**28. It makes salvation hard to acquire.** **Matthew 19:16-22**, "16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, *and* give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22 **But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.**"

**Matthew 19:23-26**, "23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of**

**heaven.** 24 And again I say unto you, **It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.** 25 When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? 26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**"

**Luke 12:15**, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and **beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**"

**Luke 18:24**, "And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**"

**29. Riches can choke the word (seed) and cannot be fruitful.** **Jeremiah 5:27-28**, "27 As a cage is full of birds, so *are* their houses full of deceit: **therefore they are become great, and waxen rich.** 28 **They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.**"

**Matthew 13:22**, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, **and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**"

**30. I may make my riches my fortress.** **Proverbs 10:15**, "The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city: the destruction of the poor *is* their poverty."

**Proverbs 18:11-12**, "11 The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit. 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour *is* humility."

**Proverbs 11:28**, "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch?"

**Psalms 52:7**, “Lo, *this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.*”

**31. I may feel self-sufficient. Revelation 3:17-18**, “17 Because thou sayest, **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing**; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**”

**Proverbs 28:11**, “**The rich man is wise in his own conceit**; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.”

**32. I may think money can solve any problem, but I cannot ransom my brother, nor myself. Psalms 49:6-12**, “6 **They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:** 8 (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) 9 That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption. 10 For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, **and leave their wealth to others.** 11 Their inward thought *is*, *that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names. 12 **Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish.**”

**1 Peter 1:18-19**, “18 **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

**33. It can affect my prayers from being answered. Proverbs 21:13**, “**Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.**”

Now admittedly, some of these things are not unique to the rich but they are all applicable to the rich. They have **many temptations that the poor do not have and many false illusions of how riches are the solution to all mankind's problems.** We believe the inspired writer sums it up very well. It is my prayer.

**Proverbs 30:7-9**, “7 Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die: 8 **Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: 9 Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain.*”**

So I will not seek quick riches, play the lottery, gamble what God has entrusted to me, be dishonest, use false weights, covet another's goods, take advantage of the poor, take bribes, flatter the rich, show respect of persons for monetary advantage or do anything for filthy lucre's sake. Neither will I rob God nor man. Money is not the end of my existence. **Money is a means to help bring God's Will on earth as it is in Heaven.** Never forget **Proverbs 11:24-26**, “24 **There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.** 25 **The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.** 26 **He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it.*”**

Are you sure you want to get rich?