

Faith in Christ Is Rich Toward God



Background: It is a natural desire to be rich. But what constitutes true riches. Solomon prayed for wisdom, and God gave him wisdom and abundant riches. In his wisdom, he simply stated: “what good does all this money do? All I earned will simply go to someone else, and I have no control whether they will continue to invest and spend the money wisely!” Christ was asked to arbitrate the division of an estate between 2 brothers. He changed the focus of their concern **laying up heavenly**

Antonio de Pereda, *Allegory of Vanity*, 1632–1636, riches as a first priority. Like Solomon, Christ tried to make the person striving after unnecessary earthly wealth as “foolish”, and if successful leading to vanity. Rather understanding that God has already provides us with bountiful harvests, great work opportunities, and importantly the “richness of eternal life” with Him. Therefore we do not claim them as ours, but are led by His grace and full forgiveness of all our sins to follow Him and give of our time, talents and treasures in the development of lasting treasures and in aid to fellow man, esp in leading them to a full relationship with Christ.

The Lessons: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26, Colossians 3:1–11, & Luke 12:13–21

To live for earthly things “is vanity and a striving after wind,” and work that is driven by such vanity “is an unhappy business” (Eccl. 1:13–14). The man who lives like that has nothing to show for “all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun ... all his days are full of sorrow” (Eccl. 2:22–23). So, too, your “covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5), makes a god out of that which cannot give you life or happiness. For “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). But “Christ who is your life” (Col. 3:4), in giving you Himself, gives you all the wealth of heaven. Instead of striving to lay up treasures for yourself, be “rich toward God” in Him (Luke 12:21).