

# Rich or Poor in Relation to God?



Text: Colossians 3:1-11 NAS 2020

**Introduction:** Dear friends: In today's gospel reading (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus said, "...**not even when one is affluent** [wealthy, rich] **does his life consist of his possessions.**"

**While wealthy people are living, they seem to have it all<sup>1</sup> – just like the man in Jesus' story (Luke 12:16-21):** His amazing harvest pointed to years of ease, **but he had two problems:**

- 1) He died that very night!
- 2) He was "**not rich in relation to God.**"

**Earthly wealth** – nice, but very temporary!

**Knowing Jesus** – MUCH NICER and ETERNAL!!

**This sermon:**

- The importance of *being alive in Christ!* (Col. 2)
- *Seeking Christ and living for Christ!* (Col. 3)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/roycanivel/2025/04/05/in-memoriam-the-31-billionaires-who-died-over-the-past-year/>

1. **Being Alive in Christ:** Colossians 2:11-13 focuses on  
✦circumcision, ✦baptism, and ✦**GOD’S WORK** to raise us  
from *spiritual death* to *spiritual life*.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. **2:11** *circumcision*.
    - i. “A sign of God’s [old] **covenant** [✦based on the Law, ✦showed the need for the Christ – since no one could fully keep it, and ✦fulfilled by Christ (Mt. 5:17)]  
...
    - ii. The **new covenant** is established with a different circumcision, [namely, with] **Baptism**” (FC Ep XII 6).
  - b. **2:12** *buried with [Christ] in baptism... raised with [Christ] through faith*. “The same powerful working of God that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in Baptism.... When Paul describes conversion or renewal, he almost everywhere designates these two parts, **making dead** [referring to the old nature] and **making alive** [referring to the new nature]” (Ap XIIA 46).
  - c. **2:13** “...when you were dead in your wrongdoings..., [God the Father] made you alive together with [God the Son]...” // **God acted by the Spirit to make us alive in Christ!**
    - i. If we have drifted away, let us repent (Acts 3:19).
    - ii. If we are alive in Christ, then, let us...
2. **Keep Seeking Christ:** <sup>1</sup> **Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above [in heaven], where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God [– exercising His God-given authority (Mt. 28:18)].** <sup>2</sup> **Set your**

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<sup>2</sup> The words in dark red are from The Lutheran Study Bible.

**minds on the things *that are above* [on eternal things], not on the things that are on earth [on temporal things].**

- a. Why? <sup>3</sup> **For you have died [to sin], and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** // As we **grow in Christ**, earthly things mean less, heavenly things mean more!
- b. Encouragement: <sup>4</sup> **When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.** // Right now, our value is hidden to the world – we seem worthless, but when Jesus returns – we will be seen as God's holy children!

### 3. **Keep Living for Christ:**

- a. How? <sup>5</sup> **Therefore, treat the parts of your earthly body as dead to [1] sexual immorality, [2] impurity, [3] passion, [4] evil desire [lust], and [5] greed, which amounts to idolatry.** // Paul identified four sex-related sins. When people are alive to them, **they** ♦are greedy for them, ♦live for them, and ♦worship them. **As a dead person no longer craves the things of this world, we are called to no longer crave sin!**
- b. Why? <sup>6</sup> **For it is because of these things [the sins identified in v. 5] that the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.**
  - i. God's Wrath: It is coming **NOW** upon those who are ♦rejecting Jesus and ♦continuing in sin (see John 3:36)!
  - ii. Repentance: By God's grace, we **NOW** believe and desire to obey!

- c. How? <sup>8</sup> **But now you also, rid yourselves of all of them** *[once and for all]:* [1] **anger**, [2] **wrath**, [3] **malice**, [4] **slander, and obscene speech from your mouth.** <sup>9</sup> **Do not** [5] **lie to one another**, // Between here and v. 5, ten sins are listed, *which are examples of all sins.*
- d. Why Should We Stop Sinning? ...[because we] **stripped off the old self with its evil practices**, <sup>10</sup> **and have put on the new self**, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it— // “stripped off... put on” – Those who “**have been raised with Christ**” (v. 1) have been *radically changed*: **The OLD hell-bound man**, God has replaced with **the NEW heaven-bound man!**
- e. How Thorough Is Our Renewal? *Very Thorough!* <sup>11</sup> **a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and free, but Christ is all, and in all.** // There are many categories in this world, **but all barriers are removed FOR ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST!**

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Holy Spirit, impress our former hell-bound condition upon us. But then, ➡ fill us with joy in Jesus, ➡ assure us of heaven through Him alone, and ➡ keep guiding and moving us to live for Christ!