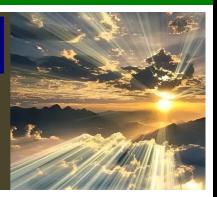
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2025 <u>Saturday</u>, 8/2 at 4:00 | <u>Sunday</u>, 8/3 at 9:00

## 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, "...<u>not</u> even when one is <u>affluent</u> [wealthy, rich] does his life consist of his possessions."

While wealthy people are living, they seem to have it all – 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)

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

- 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.²
  - 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)]
    - The <u>new covenant</u> 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, <u>let us repent</u> (Acts 3:19).
    - ii. If we are alive in Christ, then, let us...
- 2. Keep Seeking Christ: <sup>1</sup> Therefore, <u>if you have been raised</u> 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>&</sup>lt;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? 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 sexrelated 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. <u>Repentance</u>: By God's grace, we **NOW** <u>believe</u> and desire to obey!

- c. How? 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.
   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, 10 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!

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