

“Roll Out The Red Carpet”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Hollywood is preparing to “roll out the red carpet” in preparation for the Academy Awards, one of the most prestigious of the movie awards ceremonies. People are privileged to not only receive the awards given, but just to be able to attend the ceremony is a privilege.

Much time, money, and attention is given to preparations—who to invite, who to give the awards to, what to wear, speeches to give, etc.

My question is, are we doing everything necessary to “roll out the red carpet” for Jesus’ return? Look at what Jesus said just before his ascension:

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” [a] (emphasis added)

John’s account tells us: ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds

Notes:

[a] Matt.

28:18-22

NIV

[b] John

21:45-48

NIV

so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.” [b] (emphasis added)

This is our time to prepare for Jesus’ return. How? Here are two steps. 1.) Spread the good news {through testifying of what Jesus has done in our lives and by praying for the sick} wherever we go. As people respond to the testimonies and the miracles, more people will come into the Kingdom of God’s Blessing. 2.) Disciple those people we bring into the Kingdom on how to live in the Kingdom and how to go do step #1.

This is, in a nutshell, how we can “roll out the red carpet for Jesus’ return.

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...with The Sojourner

“Riches Of The Glory” (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)



This message will be a little more technical than most but you will, I think, find it worthy of a little extra attention. You might easily ask, “Aren’t all your messages important?” It would be necessary for me to say yes they are, or at least I would like to think so. Comparative importance is not the point in my observation of extra attention but the bias many people come to this subject matter understanding.

Many people, believers in Jesus Christ and unbelievers alike, share the same view of riches and what constitutes riches.^[1] Is it not interesting that the world’s system (mammon) and God’s system (blessing) would have little variance in the understanding of it whether Believer or unbeliever?

What Is Riches?

Riches is often the topic of conversation when two or more people get together. This being the case it would

be reasonable to think mammon would also find these conversations fertile ground to practice deception regarding riches and

Notes:

[1]

Eph. 1:18
The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

[2]

Matt.
6:19-20

9-09

what constitutes riches. The conversation might well include discussion and mention of all the *things* wished for if there were only more money. There might even be envy on the part on those who could not afford what another was able to purchase easily due to their greater income.

Some Believers in the discussion might begin to say *things* are not a part of *true riches* but spiritual matters held in higher esteem constituted true riches and were to be laid up in heaven where moth and rust does not corrupt.^[2] It is interesting to note when Jesus was speaking there he said “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth....” Why would he say that?

Riches From Heaven

You see *true riches* comes

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit ^[a]of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the

Notes:

[a]

Or a spirit

working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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from heaven where he at that same time said, ""But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." Jesus went on to say "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." You see *riches* is a heart issue. And scripture tells us God looks on the heart!

God never meant for people to be holy by being in poverty. You see the Believer is righteous in Christ Jesus, not in anything they do with or without money be it poverty or riches!

So now let's look closely at verse 18 in our scripture.

¹⁸The eyes of your **understanding** being **enlightened**; that ye may know what is the **hope** of his **calling**, and what the **riches** of the glory of his **inheritance** in the saints, ^(KJV)

When the Apostle Paul wrote this he was actually praying, "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints," ^(NIV) Paul wanted God to let them see in their understanding so they would know the hope they had in Christ

[3]
Strong's
Greek
Hebrew
Dictionary

and *the riches of the glory* they had inherited! Now, some may say yes but that is heavenly riches and that is true, but *heavenly riches* are not confined to heaven. Jesus said when teaching the disciples to pray, "on earth as it is in heaven." Wow! We need to let God demonstrate his glory and riches through us here and no lock him up in heaven. It is the Believer that is to be the conduit of God's flow here and now on earth! Sure you could still be skeptical about riches here and now since many have been taught differently so let's pull the word Paul used for *riches* apart. Wealth is there but

riches <G4149> ploutos—*wealth* (as fullness), i.e. (lit.) *money*, *possessions*, or (fig.) *abundance*, *riches*, (special) valuable *bestowment* :- riches ^[3]

some could say that is spiritual, sure is, and spiritual is tangible as well, because the word also means MONEY, POSSESSIONS, and ABUNDANCE.

God Bestows

Having sought Christ first our accounts are in heaven then God Bestows. ^(To be Cont.)