

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Poverty**

"The poor are only they who feel poor." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Thousands upon thousands are yearly brought into a state of real poverty by their great anxiety not to be thought poor." – William Cobbett

"There is many a good man to be found under a shabby hat." – Chinese Proverb

"Poverty is no disgrace." – German Proverb

"Not he who has little, but he who wishes more, is poor." – Seneca

The strange thing about poverty is that not everyone agrees who is in a state of poverty. It is a term which we readily associate with one's financial status.

There is a government poverty line that may surprise you. It is living on the equivalent of \$1.25 per day. And yet, there are people who feel they are in poverty who make a lot more than that.

But there is another poverty to consider that many do not. There is indeed a spiritual poverty. The strange thing about it is that you can have great possessions but be spiritually poor.

When Jesus confronted the rich young ruler, He said, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:21-22).

"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).

Spiritual poverty is far worse than material poverty. There are many people, for example, living in Central America who have very little, and live in deplorable conditions. But they are happy. They do not feel they are in poverty, and thankfully, many are rich with their faith and wonderful blessings found in Christ our Lord.

Are you aware that Paul spoke of the churches of Macedonia who were in "deep poverty?" And yet Paul was amazed at how they "abounded in the riches of their liberality" (2 Cor. 8:2). They were far richer than the materially rich in the ancient world.

If only people today could understand that true poverty is found among those who do not know Christ. Remember, "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich..." (Prov. 10:22).

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).