



PARADOX 1: THE RICH

James 1:9, *Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,*

1 Peter 1:3-6, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,*

1 John 3:1, *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

- ★ Our self-image should not be determined by what culture says about us, but by what God says about us!
- ★ James didn't pity the poor Christians of his day, but actually saw them as those who were spiritually advantaged

PARADOX 2: THE POOR

James 1:9-11, *Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.*

Mark 10:22 *Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

FAITH WORKS

4: The Wealth Paradox

Mark 10:24b-25, *Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*

Matthew 13:22b, *the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

Matthew 6:24b, *You cannot serve God and money.*

1 Timothy 6:17, *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.*

1 Timothy 1:15, *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

- ★ The bible teaches that the rich are the spiritually disadvantaged, not the poor.
- ★ Trials are the great equalizer of both the rich and poor, because they remind us of the limitations of material wealth and that our greatest Treasure is Jesus.

THE

RICH

James 1:12, *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

- ★ James is not teaching that steadfastness results in salvation (as if we could earn it), but that steadfastness is the result and evidence of eternal life in a person who loves God.