

*Pure Religion*  
Poverty & Wealth – James 1:9-11  
January 28, 2018

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.  
- James 1:9-10

### I. POVERTY & RICHES IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- In the kingdom of God, poverty is not seen as a curse, and wealth is not viewed as a necessary sign of God's favor (1 Sam. 2:8; Ps. 10:2; 14:6; 74:21; Prov. 17:5; 19:17; Gal. 2:10; James 2:6).
- The poor Christian exalts in his/her spiritual status as a Christ-follower and their inheritance that is sure to come in glory (Ps. 16:5-6; Matt. 19:23-30; 20:1-16; 2 Cor. 9:9; Gal. 3:27-29).
- The wealthy Christian boasts in his/her humility, for the transitory nature of wealth makes it an undependable hope, and they must still take up their cross like all others (Ps. 49:16-20; Isa. 40:6-8; Mark 8:34-35).
- Death is the great equalizer for all classes of human beings (Ps. 2:12; 102:25-28; Luke 12:28; 13:1-5).

### II. THE GREAT GOAL - CHRISTIAN MATURITY

- For James, like the writer of Proverbs, our goal is neither poverty nor riches—our goal is Christian maturity (Prov. 30:7-9; Eph. 4:11-16).

**KNOW:** Both poverty and great wealth bring pressure on the believer. It is possible to love Christ in both situations, but more difficult, generally speaking, for the wealthy. We should be wise with our wealth, but must trust in God above all things.

**DO:** Be conservative in your pursuit of wealth, and reckless in your pursuit of God.

#### Recommended Reading:

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #332 ALC)

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please read James 1:9-11

1. What is James's overall advice to Christians in general in this passage?
2. How can a believer be expected to "boast" in his/her humiliation?
3. Why does James focus on the impending death of the rich Christian in this passage and not so much on the impending death of the poor Christian?
4. Does "the sun rises with its scorching heat" refer to the trials of life, do you think? Why is James so explicit here?
5. How do we determine if we are poor or rich?
6. What is your takeaway from this passage?