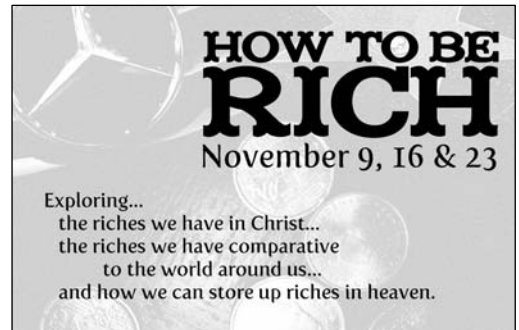


ME RICH?

STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 9, 2008

OPEN IN PRAYER



A TIME OF WORSHIP (Optional) - You may want to sing a hymn or chorus.

INTRODUCTION

These days everybody is talking about getting rich or staying rich but nobody is talking about how to be rich. The Bible says that God has already made you rich. He has given you everything you need in Christ Jesus. What if we were to live like we were already rich? Wouldn't that be something?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin by reading Ephesians 1:3-14

1. Discuss how much a person has to have in order for them to be considered rich today?
2. What jumped out at you as you read through the text? A question? A phrase? A word or a thought?
3. Paul tells the church at Ephesus that they have been "blessed" or made rich with every spiritual blessing they could imagine and that the entire Triune God has gotten in on this. List the different "riches" of His grace that Paul records from God the Father (vv. 4-6), in Jesus (vv.7-12), and in the Holy Spirit (vv.13-14).
4. Which ones do you most appreciate these days? Why? Which ones are you most in need of these days? Why?
5. Paul uses the phrase "to the praise of his glorious grace" three times (v. 6, 12, 14). What do you think it means?

MOVING FORWARD

Brad said that absolutely nothing in all of life can separate you from the riches God has for you because you are "in Christ". Paul uses this phrase 164 times in his writings and it was his secret to a holy life. Rather than being defined by what he did or what he had or what people thought of him, Paul had learned the secret of being content - he was focused on Christ who supplied him with what he needed moment by moment. What would it mean for you to live like you're already rich? Reflect on your level of fear, worry and even generosity, these days. How can you be a picture of contentment to those around you?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sakes became poor that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

CLOSING PRAYER