Riches*

Proverbs 23:4 -5 (4) Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.
(5) Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.
In our younger years of schooling, one of the first language skills we learned was to use context clues to help solve problems or understand the meaning of words. For instance, what does the word "bear" mean? It could be used as a noun referring to a big, furry mammal with big teeth. Or it could be used as a verb, meaning "to endure." Only the context can give you the actual meaning of the word.
In the same way, Biblical words must be put into context in order to understand what is being said.
The Bible describes Satan as the accuser of the righteous, who has accused them before God day and night (Revelation 12:10).
In one of the most vivid scenes portraying Satan's accusatory nature, the patient patriarch Job bore the brunt of Satan's slander. Turn to;
Job 1:8-12 (8) And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
(9) Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
(10) Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.
(11) But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
(12) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So

Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.
Satan's comments seem fairly easy to understand—he insisted that God had blessed Job with physical and financial blessing and it was due to those blessings that Job served God. But if one is not careful, he or she will miss another of Satan's false implications embedded in the statement. Satan subtly implied that it is easier for a man to serve God if he is rich and his possessions are increased, than it is to serve God if he is poor. Unfortunately, this idea has been maintained by many in the past and the present. In truth, however, Satan's implication is false. It has never been easier to follow God if a person is financially wealthy. On the contrary, wealth often has great potential to have a negative effective on a man's relationship with God given this reason. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mat 16:26).
The obvious conclusion is that a man's soul has great value, even more than all the wealth in the world. For a man to redeem his soul he must obey the gospel plan designed to do just that. However some take words out of context. One example is; Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:28). *Listen to this;* {The Churches of Christ claim this passage teaches that both repentance and baptism are necessary for salvation. An examination of the Greek text reveals information not available in the English translation. The word "for" is a translation of the Greek preposition eis. The Churches of Christ are correct when they point out that eis can express aim or purpose. If Luke intended that usage, then the passage would teach that baptism is necessary to receive forgiveness of sins. However, this is not the only meaning that the Greek term eis can have in this passage. Eis can also be used to indicate the basis or ground of something. According to

A. T. Robertson, this usage "is seen in at Matt.10:41 in three examples where it cannot be purpose or aim, but rather the basis or ground. It is seen again in Matt. 12:41 about the preaching of Jonah. They repented because of (or at) the preaching of Jonah." If this is the usage that Luke intended, then Acts 2:38 means that one is baptized because their sins have already been forgiven. Acts 2:38 does not prove the necessity of water baptism for salvation. (North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alpharetta, Georgia).}

Only the context can give you the actual meaning of the Greek word 'eis.' Neither Matt 10:41 or Matt 12:41 have anything to do with repent and be baptized for remission of sins. Replacing 'for' with 'of' in Acts 2:38 is nonsensical. Context matters. Back to the idea that riches and physical blessings make serving God easier is a false notion and Satan knew it. So did God. And so should we. Let's take another look, turn to;

Luke 12:16-21 (16) And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
(17) And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?
(18) And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.
(19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
(20) But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
(21) So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

It is not the riches of themselves that are harmful, it is because one is not rich toward God. Instead of building bigger barns, Mr. Rich could have distributed the increase to the poor and to those in need and still he would have had plenty.

With the increase God had given him, he had the opportunity to do that which is good. But he chose otherwise. His error was not to eat, drink and be merry, Listen to King Solomon;
Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun (Ecclesiates 8:15).
His error was that worldly things were his main goal in life, thus the building of bigger barns. Now let's turn to;
1Timothy 6:6-10 (6) But godliness with contentment is great gain.
(7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
(8) And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
(9) But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
(10) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
I'm sure many have heard the saying "money cannot buy happiness but I would like to try for myself." For many people, the end of the money comes before the end of the month. In other words, the money has run out but there are several days still remaining in the month. However, that is preferable to the other side of the coin. If one is greedy, most likely he has emulated the rich man in order to keep his bounty and humanity was forgotten. Perhaps one may have been like a certain rich man. A beggar appeared at his gate desiring crumbs from his table. Apparently the beggar did not receive any crumbs because it is said he died and went to Abraham's bosom. Eventually the rich man also died, and in hell he was unable to obtain even one drop of water to cool his tongue. If only he had not trusted in his riches. If only one would listen to;

1Timothy 6:17-19 (17) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
(18) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
(19) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
The Samaritan's were not well thought of by the Jew's. And yet a parable of Jesus sought out the goodness of a Samaritan that was "rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying hold on eternal life." However, it's human nature to justify oneself." Turn with me to;
Luke 7:36-50 (36) And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.
(37) And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,
(38) And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.
(39) Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.
(40) And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.
(41) There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
(42) And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
(43) Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

(44) And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.
(45) Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
(46) My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
(47) Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.
(48) And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
(49) And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
(50) And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.
In any case those that sat at the table with him began to question that her sins had been forgiven. Jesus is the lawyer and the judge, one cannot question whom He has forgiven and who He has not. One may put oneself in the seat of the judge but cannot change the judgment of Christ.
Paul has said that all spiritual blessings are in Christ and this is so. Christ in His judgment is going to place the righteous on one side and the unrighteous on the other. The righteous are going to receive riches untold and unheard of. The cursed will not receive the blessings and will wonder why. Do not take my word, turn to;
Matthew 25:31-46 (31) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
(32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
(33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

(34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
(35) For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
(36) Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
(37) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
(38) When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
(39) Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
(40) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
(41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
(42) For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:
(43) I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
(44) Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?
(45) Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.
(46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
Greater riches can no man find than that of eternal life.
The pleasures of sin are only for a season, like a vapor that vanishes away and after that, an interview with ones maker.

Even the life of a righteous man is as a vapor, but when he vanishes away his maker will bestow upon him riches and life beyond measure. Turn to;

John 14:1-3 (1) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
(2) In my Father's house are **many mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
(3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2Timothy 4:7-8 (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
(8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1Peter 1:1-4 (1) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
(2) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
(4) To an **inheritance incorruptible**, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven** for you,

1Corinthians 2:7-9 (7) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
(8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
(9) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,

neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath **prepared for them** that love him.
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12). In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the **riches of his grace**; (Ephesians 1:7).
Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and predestination thru baptism is the effect of faith. Whereby God is said to have chosen us in Christ. All spiritual blessings are in Christ and in Him we are adopted sons of God. How does one become a son of God?? To whom does one turn? The Apostle Paul learned the hard way, but he has written it down for our sake;
Turn with me to;
Galatians 3:26-27 (26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
(27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
Many accept "faith" as the supreme salvation requirement, but do not accept what faith contains to be His children. They say, "baptism is not necessary", thereby forgoing the baptism established by Christ while He was still on earth (Mark 16:16).
If one can go to heaven without being baptized, one can go to heaven without being in Christ. However, to be in Christ is dependent on baptism, (Galatians 3:26,27).
If one can go to heaven without being baptized, one can go to heaven without receiving remission of sins. However, remission of sin is dependent on baptism, (Acts 2:38).
If one can go to heaven without being baptized, one can go to heaven without being added to the Church. However, being added to the Church is dependent on baptism, (Acts 2:41-47).
If one can go to heaven without being baptized, one can go to heaven without crucifying the old man of sin. But crucifying the old man of sin is dependent upon baptism, (Romans 6:4-6).
If one can go to heaven without being baptized, one can go to

heaven without the faith of the operation of God. But the faith of the operation of God is dependent on baptism, (Colossians 2:12).
Let us all "be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." His message is the 'not in the devil's tale,' Baptism is important but NOT necessary to be saved. *Jesus said;* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16).
This was the final commandment given by Jesus while He was still on earth. The earth does not contain enough riches to redeem ones soul, however God thru His Son gives redemption as a free gift to them who obey His will. The devil will try to take your gift from you, however he can be defeated by faith. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis thru Faith in Christ that is the effect of belief; His salvation is only to those who first believe the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into His death for remission of sins. You see, it is obedience that matters, context matters, really matters. This is the gospel. It's invitation is now, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case won't you come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

The message 'Riches' presented to;