

Date : 19-04-2009

Subject: The Uncertainty of Riches

Speaker: William Innes

Reading: Luke 12:16-21; Psalm 49:6-8; Matthew 16:26

With the financial circumstances and credit crunch, it is easy today to understand that there is no comfort in material things. So often, the comment is made, "If only I had...", but the reality is that it does not bring contentment or happiness. The only security to be found is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Psalm 49:6,7 state: "[They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him](#)"

In Matthew 16, the Lord asked, "[What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?](#)". All the wealth in the world cannot buy a minute in heaven or a breath of eternal life. The soul is bankrupt in the sight of God, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

World leaders today are working to find a way for security and stability but God has provided the only way to genuine safety and stability. The man in Luke 12 thought that he had everything that he would need but God called him a fool because he had forgotten to take account of God and to prepare for eternity. His possessions could not save him.

The Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price to set us free from the debt of sin. "[For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich](#)" (2 Cor 8:9). We have nothing that we can give to God; all we have comes from Him. In contrast, the Lord had everything but gave it up so that He could redeem us. He left heaven for a manger, a feeding trough for cattle, and a cross. More than this, although He was sinless, He was made sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). He Who did not sin, bare our sins in His own body of the tree (2 Peter 2:24). "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:10-11).

He knew all that lay before Him when He came, He said to a would-be disciple, "[The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head](#)" (Matt 8:20). He knew the sufferings, mockery and shame of the cross but He bore it for us.

When He said on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30), it was the equivalent of the statement, "Paid in Full" on an invoice. In 1 Timothy 2:5,6, it is put this way, "[For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all](#)" (1 Tim 2:5-6). The promise of God is not eternal life at some time in the future, but the enjoyment of eternal life now for everyone that believes. The offer of the Gospel is for "Whosoever" but the individual must make the choice. There is provision for all, but no one can make the decision for another person. Two were crucified alongside the Lord, one went to paradise, the other to hell.

The Bible warns, "[Boast not thyself of to morrow](#)" (Prov 27:1). We do not know what may happen, the Lord may come and the opportunity be lost for ever.