

**The income from a past career put me in the top 1% of the world's wealthiest** people. I was what the Bible calls: **rich**. Being rich (*correctly*) requires being generous, and being generous requires giving riches to others ⇒ Matthew 27:57-60. The Bible often addresses the *difficulty* of rich people keeping their riches *liquid / able to be given away*:

- Matthew 19:16-24 ⇒ **it is very difficult for rich people to go to heaven** ⇒ v.23.
- Mark 12:41-44 ⇒ poor people may understand giving better than rich people may.
- Luke 1:51-53 ⇒ **poor people get hungrier for God than rich people do.**
- Luke 6:20-25 ⇒ rich people reward themselves instead of giving that wealth to others.
- Proverbs 19:17 ⇒ **giving to others brings rewards from God to the giver.**
- Luke 12:16-34 ⇒ selfishness is obvious to God, but is not usually obvious to the rich.

**God wants rich people in Heaven** as much as He wants everybody; **but riches hinder it.**

**Brass** represents **God's judgment** in the Bible ⇒ Exodus 39:39; Revelation 1:15; 2:18. **Gold** represents the end *result* after **God's purification**. These two metals can look the same but represent two different spiritual events. God alone is the Judge and the One who purifies (and uses forms of judgment in purifying) ⇒ Malachi 3:1-5. God does *NOT* wipe sin off us so we may enter Heaven, but *pays* for our sin by Jesus' blood / righteousness. *We* have the responsibility of intimacy with God to advance *His* sanctification process.

James 5:1-9 says ⇒ "... You heaped treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the workmen who have reaped your fields cry out, being kept back by you. And the cries of the ones who have reaped have entered "into the ears of the Lord of Hosts." (Isaiah 5:9) You lived luxuriously on the earth, and lived for self-pleasure..."

**The focus of this article:** workmen include missionaries and fields include mission fields in these last days. The last days began when Jesus took on human form; the focus is even stronger now, almost 2000 years later. Another fact: \$100k+ annual income **IS** the top 1% of world's richest income, and \$50k is *still very* rich, globally. Beloved, we **are** the rich; an un-disprovable fact... even if we have never realized this before; ever.

**Do you feel that human denial / indignation rising up inside you? **THAT**** is what Jesus is warning us about!! Our financial management to **not** keep assets liquid for giving away **does not fool God** to think we are not rich! It **does** convince God we did **not** believe the Bible ⇒ Matthew 25:14-30 by using the riches (He gave to us to enjoy giving) *correctly*.

**It is better to get this brass from God now than to not get gold from Him later!** God judges all our works with fire when we meet Him ⇒ 1 Corinthians 3:12-14. He really wants His **brass** words to yield **gold** through us (to bless us, and to glorify Him).

Workmen / missionaries in the mission fields need 'wage' help now in these last days, and **none of us** want to be found having denied the Holy Spirit's **brass** words to us. **Thank God** for His Word to let us know the truth, *before it's too late!* But thankfulness is useless if it's only words without actions... proving all our thankfulness to be selfish lies.

Allowing this **brass to gold** process brings us **indescribable joy!** ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9. ♥