



**The Test of Riches!**  
October 1, 2023 – James 1:9-12  
Pastor Jon Pickens

## **A Christ-Centered Perspective on Riches**

1. The Christian in humble circumstances should rejoice in what is **eternal**.
  - a. The Test of Faith: Will I **trust** in the riches of this world to find joy?
  
  - b. The Perspective of the Christian in humble circumstances: My joy is anchored in the eternal riches of Christ that are both **now** and **will** be.
  
2. The wealthy Christian should find joy in the eternal riches of Christ because the wealth of this world is **temporary** and ultimately **meaningless**.
  - a. The Test of Faith: Will I **trust** in the riches of this world to find joy?
  
  - b. The Perspective of the Wealthy Christian: My joy is not anchored in **temporary** wealth, but the eternal riches I have in Christ.
  
3. Standing firm when tested is **worth it!**

CHOOSE **CONTENTMENT!**

## Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does our perspective about earth riches rob us of joy?
2. Read Matthew 19:16-26. What stands out to you about the account of the rich young ruler?
3. Do you ever find yourself being the rich young ruler? Explain
4. Take some time to think through all the riches that you have in Christ. What are they?
5. Read Philippians 4:11-13. According to Paul, what is the secret to facing situations of having very little and having an abundance?
6. What is a practical action you can take to help you learn contentment?
7. What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?

## Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be down front after the service and would love to connect.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at [pj@fbclowell.org](mailto:pj@fbclowell.org).
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

| <b>October 2023</b><br>(Two Year Reading Plan, Month 22)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                        |                                         |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b><br><b>Starting Oct 3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Week 2</b><br><b>Starting Oct 9</b> | <b>Week 3</b><br><b>Starting Oct 16</b> | <b>Week 4</b><br><b>Starting Oct 23</b> |
| Day 1: Acts 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Day 1: Acts 15,16                      | Day 1: Acts 23,24                       | Day 1: Romans 5,6                       |
| Day 2: Acts 8,9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Day 2: Acts 17                         | Day 2: Acts 25,26                       | Day 2: Romans 7,8                       |
| Day 3: Acts 10,11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Day 3: Acts 18,19                      | Day 3: Acts 27,28                       | Day 3: Romans 9,10                      |
| Day 4: Acts 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Day 4: Acts 20                         | Day 4: Romans 1,2                       | Day 4: Romans 11-13                     |
| Day 5: Acts 13,14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Day 5: Acts 21,22                      | Day 5: Romans 3,4                       | Day 5: Romans 14-16                     |
| <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.<br><sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. |                                        |                                         |                                         |
| James 1:5,6 (NIV)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                         |                                         |

**What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?**