

Preacher's Pen points

A Chance Receive Millions!



I knew that would get your attention! This week I received through e-mail two letters, both of which offered millions of dollars for our ministry. One writer wrote: *"I selected your church after visiting the website for this purpose and prayed over it. I am willing to donate the sum of \$20 million US Dollars to your church/ministry for the development of evangelism and also as aids for the less privileged around you."* Interestingly, the same day another similar offer came in: *"After my fasting and prayers, I asked God to make his choice and direct me to a honest Christian or the chosen ministry that deserves this fund by his Grace. I then came across your address on the Internet as I was browsing through a Christian site, and as a matter of fact, it is not only you or your ministry that I picked on the Christian site initially, but after my fervent prayer over it, then you were nominated to me through divine revelation from God, so these are how I received such a divine revelation from the Lord, how I got your contact information, and I then decided to contact you for the fund to be used wisely for things that will glorify the name of God."* Imagine that! God personally directed this person to send us \$45 million dollars!

The 4-1-9 Nigerian Scam

These letters, as you may have already suspected, are a part of what the Secret Service Department labels the 4-1-9 Nigerian scam. There are endless varieties of these letters; but the goal is the same—to win the trust of some naïve American who will foolishly give out information about his bank account, pay some advance fees to receive millions, only to discover that he has been robbed of whatever money he possesses. It is sad to

think that every year thousands of people are persuaded to buy into some scam of this kind, only to discover that they have been "had". The rule of thumb has always been, "If something sounds too good to be true, then it's probably too good to be true!"

A Spiritual Scam

There is a spiritual version of the Nigerian scam. Its perpetrator is Satan and its promise is dangerously deceptive. "Invest your life with me", he says, "and I will give you happiness, pleasure, and all the good things of life!" Regrettably many have bought into that message and discover too late that they have played the fool and lost, by a life of sin, their health, their family, and their self-respect as well as their soul!

A Real Hope of True Wealth

Yet in this world of con artists, scams, and false hopes is available *"an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven"* for those who put their trust in God (1 Pet. 1:3-4). This is a hope that *"does not disappoint"* (Rom. 5:5) but instead is both *"sure and steadfast"* (Heb. 6:19).

Ironically, people looking for a quick buck will easily fall for a get rich scheme but will not entertain the possibilities of what God can provide for them! Countless riches are available to us in Jesus *"in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"* (Col. 2:3). For those who obey Jesus Christ, there is a *"hope of eternal life, which God who cannot lie, promised long ages ago"* (Tit. 1:2). Now that's an opportunity too good to pass up!

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)