



**A Study of  
The Unsearchable  
Riches of Christ**

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# The Unsearchable Riches of Christ (1)

Text: Ephesians 3:1-8

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

## Introduction:

A. First I want to lay some groundwork defining some words in our text:

1. Verse 1 – The prisoner of Jesus Christ:

Two fold meaning:

a. First the Apostle is speaking of the imprisonment in Rome for preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles and particularly the Saints at Ephesus to whom he is writing.

Paul was not imprisoned for a capital crime, like theft, or murder, but for preaching the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore he was not ashamed of his bonds.

b. Secondly, He was the prisoner of Jesus Christ by grace:

Paul's captivity began on the road to Damascus. Saul (Paul) was on his way to Damascus to imprison (or put into captivity) more Christians for their faith in Christ. However, he found himself arrested by Christ himself....

Acts 9:4-6, "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what

wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

In Romans 1:1, the Apostle said, “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,”

Paul was “A servant of Jesus Christ,” not a servant of sin, or a servant of man. Not the servant of Moses or the law, or the traditions of the elders, but a prisoner and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, by redemption through the powerful efficacious grace of God in conversion.

## 2. Verse 2 - Dispensation:

- a. In this verse the word “dispensation” is the Greek word “oikonomia” (oy-kon-om-ee'-ah) which is translated “dispensation” 4 times, and “stewardship” 7 times.
- b. It can mean “a period of time” OR it can mean “stewardship”

Note what the Apostle says, “the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward”

In this verse dispensation has nothing to do with "time." It speaks of Paul's stewardship.

Strong's dictionary defines dispensation as “the management of a household or of household affairs specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of other's property.”

Speaking of the dispensation of the grace of God in verse 2, Gill said, “Not the free love and favour of God in his heart towards his people; nor internal grace wrought in the heart of the apostle; but the gift of grace, as in Ephesians 3:7 qualifying him for the work of the ministry; and so the Ethiopic version renders it, "if ye have heard the gift of the grace of God"; or rather the doctrine of grace, the Gospel, the subject matter of which is the grace of God; it is a declaration of the free grace of God in the salvation of men; and it is the means of conveying the grace of God into their hearts. Now the apostle had a dispensation (stewardship) to preach this Gospel committed to him; he acted by authority, and as a steward of the mysteries of God; and which he faithfully dispensed to the family of Christ.”

So we see that Paul was God's steward commissioned to preach the grace of God, or the Gospel to the Gentiles.

## 3. Verse 3 - Revelation:

- a. A disclosure of unknown truth.
  - b. Speaking of Paul, The Lord said in Acts 9:15 "...Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."
  - c. God used the Apostle Paul to disclose truth that was not known previously (the mystery verses 4-5).
4. Verses 4&5 – Mystery:
- a. The word mystery means the hidden secret things, something that is not obvious.
  - b. Certainly Christ is not very obvious to many people it takes a diving revealing of Christ to see him...
  - c. Note to whom it was revealed " Apostles and Prophets."
  - d. Paul is saying that God has sent him to preach these wonderful truths of Christ (that which was hidden) to the Gentiles.

5. Verse 8 - Unsearchable:

Unsearchable is the Greek word anexichniastos (an-ex-ikh-nee'-as-tos). It is a negative particle that means: past finding out, unsearchable, that which cannot be searched out or comprehended.

It seems very strange that Paul would say that he was commissioned of the Lord to preach among the Gentiles that which cannot be found out!

Explanation:

There are things that even the elect of God do not completely understand: Holiness, perfection, the works of His hands, his dominion and power over all, these are inconceivable things.

(Explain the Trinity, or sinlessness, or absolute holiness.) These things we accept by faith.

Then there is the grace that is laid up for us in Him, the inheritance He possesses for us. These things are called the riches of glory; and these rich things are communicable, as well as solid, satisfying, and lasting.

But I believe that these things are unsearchable, or uncomprehensible to the natural man!

1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned."

What is necessary to understand the wonderful unsearchable riches of Christ?

HUMILITY - Look at Paul's words in verse 8:  
"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints..."

Before his conversion I think Paul (or Saul) being a Pharisee, was probably proud, self righteous, maybe self-centered, and arrogant!

But now he considers himself "less than the least of all saints." The Great Apostle understood the importance of humility, which is one of the riches of Christ.

I think it imperative that we look at humility for a moment!

## **I. Only God can humble the soul of a sinner:**

Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no."

James the Lord's half-brother said in James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

## **II. Once God saves us we are humbled when we see what we used to be and where the Lord brought us from:**

1 Timothy 1:12-14, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Paul said that salvation is the gift of God given to those who see themselves as they really are, and see Christ high and exalted, and come as an humble sinner seeking grace.

### **III. Those converted and made humble, glory in the righteousness of Christ and not in their own righteousness:**

Philippians 3:8-10, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

You can always tell a person that is not humble they spend there time bragging on themselves... like the Pharisee did in the event that Jesus gave in Luke 18:11-14.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

When Isaiah saw the holiness of God, he cried out, "Woe is me for I am undone a man of unclean lips and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."

### **IV. Humility causes a person to renounce error and submit to the truths revealed in the Word of God:**

The sons of Eli were prideful men and did great evil while serving as priest in the Tabernacle of the Lord. Eli did not reprove them and did nothing to stop them. The Lord speaks to Samuel concerning His judgment of Eli's family. Eli comes to Samuel wanting to know what the LORD had told him concerning himself. Note his reaction when he is told:

1 Samuel 3:17-18, "And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good."

## **V. Humbled sinners rely on the Lord Jesus Christ and not himself:**

A. First, we live in dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

B. Secondly, we depend on the wonderful love of Christ.

John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

C. Thirdly, we confidence in the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

## **Conclusions:**

HUMILITY is: A characteristic of saints, Necessary to the service of God

Those who have humility are:

Regarded by God

Heard by God

Enjoy the presence of God

Delivered by God

Lifted up by God

Exalted by God

Receive more grace

The Saints should:

Put on, and be clothed with humility

Humility was exemplified by:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, the Centurion, the Woman of Canaan, Peter, Paul.

Dear Christian, we should put on humility that we might truly have those things mentioned above, and that we might come to know the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Sinner, only Christ can make you humble, only God can save, see yourself as you are and Christ as He is and flee to the cross of Calvary. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ that you might be saved.

## The Unsearchable Riches of Christ (2)

Ephesians 3:8, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"

2 Corinthians 8:9, "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."

### Introduction:

A. In the last message the Apostle Paul taught us that humility is necessary to experience the unsearchable riches that are ours in Christ.

1. Peter says the same thing in 1 Peter 5:5:

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

C. The subject of this message is "The Riches of Christ."

D. First, I want to speak about some things that He is rich in.

As God, Christ has incommunicable riches, like the perfections of his nature, the works of his hands, his kingdom and authority over everything and everyone, and the glory that is his and his alone.

As Mediator, His present riches are called the riches of grace, and his future riches (the inheritance He possesses for the elect) are called the riches of glory. These riches are communicable.

### I. Christ is Rich in Goodness:

Romans 2:4, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

A. Both the lost and the saint are receive the riches of Christ goodness:

In the context of this verse, the Apostle Paul is dealing with the sure impending judgment of God. The Apostle anticipates that they will object, and say that they are not as wicked as Paul says, and thus conclude that they would escape the judgment of God, because they

have not been punished by God in this life, but instead have prospered.

The Apostle reveals the truth that it was not their innocence, but "the riches of "divine" goodness, longsuffering, and forbearance, which were the cause of their prosperity.

1. When the Apostle speaks of the "riches of his goodness here he does not mean the riches of his special, spiritual, and eternal goodness, because these riches are reserved and given only to His elect.
2. The Apostle is speaking of the "general riches of Christ temporal and providential goodness", of which the men of the world generally have the greatest share of.
3. God's longsuffering and forbearance of sinners is seen in that He has not poured out his wrath and judgment upon them.
4. The longsuffering and forbearance shown the lost sheep is seen in 2 Peter 3:9.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Does this mean that we can resist the call of God to salvation?

The general call can and is resisted. The effectual call of the Holy Spirit is not and cannot be resisted!

B. The goodness of GOD can be seen:

Psalm 27:13, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

1. The psalmist believed that he and all of God's people would "see" or "enjoy" or be the benefactor of the "goodness of the Lord."
2. The child of God can expect the "riches of Christ" in their life.
  - a. Whatever is needed - the providential goodness of the Lord, in supplying us with the necessities of life. Both spiritual and physical.
  - b. Special favors such as:

His sustain power during afflictions

Forgiveness from our burden of sin

Strength against Satan's temptations, and deliverance out of them

Divine refreshment from his Word, and from fellowship with his people

One day all the glories of the other world

C. The goodness of Christ is something that can be tasted:

Psalm 34:8, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

The word "taste" is the Greek word "ta'am (taw-am) and can be used "to taste," or "to perceive"

So to taste is to recognize the goodness of God.

All the divine Persons in the Godhead are good. The Father is good in that he has provided good things for his children. He has made them good promises, and gives them good gifts.

The Son is good. He is the good Shepherd wrought the good work of redemption by laying down his life for the sheep. He is a good "Great High Priest in that He speaks a good word on our behalf in the court of heaven.

The Spirit is good because He works the good work of redemption in the hearts of God's elect. He gives them good gifts, and He reveals good things to them

Thus the Psalmist says that those who have tasted God's salvation are capable of tasting (or recognizing) how good the Lord is in some measure (finite mind).

1Peter 2:2, 3, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

Those without Christ only have a taste for the pleasures of sin and detest everything that is good. But conversion gives the recipient a new taste. Those who have received saving grace, and knowledge of the goodness

of God in Christ, now live on it (as sweet tasting honey), and are nourished by it.

D. The goodness of Christ extends to all generations.

Psalm 100:5, "For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

1. Christ grace is everlasting (forever unending eternal).

William Cowper, stated this very clearly in his hymn, "*There is a fountain*". (Vs. 1) There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins, And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains. (Vs. 3) Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall never lose its pow'r, Till all the ransomed church of God Be saved, to sin no more...."

The grace of God is sufficient to save all those in every generation - from the first (Adam) to the last sinner (in whatever generation that is) that is washed in the blood of the Lamb.

## **II. Christ is Rich in Wisdom and Knowledge:**

A. Colossians 2:3, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

This may be understood either of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Christ is the all-wise God, omniscient, knowing all things about all people and all things. As our Mediator, He possesses all wisdom and understanding. But this verse also speaks of the fullness of truth, and grace, that that abides within Christ, who is the fountain from which those who know him obtain "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

B. The Knowledge and Wisdom of Christ are hid from unbelievers, but revealed to the humble:

Matthew 11:25-26, "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The treasures of Christ wisdom are hidden from those whom the Father does not want them revealed, and revealed to those to whom it pleases him to reveal them.

### III. Christ is rich in Glory:

A. In Ephesians 1:18, the Apostle Paul said:

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,”

The fact that our eyes must be opened shows that the riches of his glory are hid to the natural mind.

1. That our eyes must be opened to behold these riches is seen in Ephesians 3:16:

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;”

Note that it must be granted, or given to us.

Christ is undeniably rich in glory!

B. Christ Glory was manifested at the marriage in Cana:

John 2:11, “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”

C. His riches in glory are our source of supply.

Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

### IV. Christ is Rich in Grace and Truth:

*John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

A. His grace is rich in love - it is his love that drove him to Calvary:

John 13:1, “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father,

having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”

B. His grace is rich in redemption and forgiveness:

Ephesians 1:7, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

C. His grace is rich in protection:

Romans 8:35, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

## **Conclusions:**

If you are lost - I pray that Holy Spirit will draw you and enable you to drink from the fountain that will never run dry.

If the Holy Spirit calls – Drink from the fountain that springs up into everlasting life --- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved.

If He does you will find peace that passes all understanding. You will walk in the light that never grows dim, and stand on the foundation that will never sink.

If you are saved this morning I trust that you will faithfully search for the unsearchable riches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Love him – who first loved you, serve him – who gave his life a ransom for your sins, trust him – in all things, look to him – for strength and provision, hope in him, abide in him.

# The Unsearchable Riches of Christ (3)

Text: Colossians 2:1-15

For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

## Introduction:

The riches of Christ are limitless and inexhaustible.

The riches of Christ can never be exhausted, or depleted, and they meet the needs in every believer's life.

## I. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ are Incomparable Riches:

I do not believe that I have to convince anyone here that the riches of this world do not compare to the riches we have in Christ our Lord!

A. The Riches of Christ are incomparable because:

1. If you had all the riches of the world and lose your soul you would have nothing:

Mark 8:36, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

2. The parable of Luke 12: 16-21:

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 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.

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.

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? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

3. Again Luke 16:19-25

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

- Lazarus knew the Lord – because of the riches of Christ, at death, he went to be with the Lord.
- The rich man did not have Christ – he lost everything and will spend eternity in torments.
- Notice the plural of "torments"

- B. They are incomparable because of their great value to the souls of men.

James 2:5, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

Thus the greatest riches and wealth of this world are incomparable to the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus.

## **II. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ are Inexhaustible Riches:**

- A. The truth that Christ is infinite makes his riches inexhaustible also:

Investigate the secular and religious writings of this world.

Search the Bible, God's Holy Word, for an end to who Christ is, or to what He has done, or what He is doing today and you will fail! Why? Because there is no end! Christ cannot be contain or confined! He is inexhaustible!

1. He is inexhaustible because He is God:

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 17:5, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

2. He is inexhaustible because He is from everlasting to everlasting:

John 8:58, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

## **III. The Unsearchable Richs of Christ give Satisfaction to the Soul:**

John 7:37,38, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

- A. Christ alone gives real and lasting satisfaction:

John 10:8-10, "All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

B. This satisfaction is given those who have been made meek:

In Psalm 22:26, David said:

"The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever."

C. They are satisfying because they abide in our soul.

Ecclesiastes 3:14, "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

1. God loves his children - and it is forever.
2. Jesus Christ saves his sheep - and they are saved forever.
3. God keeps us - and it is forever.
4. God provides for us - and it is forever.

## **Conclusions:**

- A. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ are Incomparable Riches.
- B. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ are Inexhaustible Riches.
- C. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ are that which gives Satisfaction to the Soul.

# The Unsearchable Riches of Christ - 4

Ephesians 3:8, Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Text: Revelation 1:5-6

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

I trust that the Lord has shown you some important things in this series of messages:

- A. In the first message we learned that one must be made humble before the riches of Christ will be revealed.
- B. In the second message we learned about the reality of the riches of Christ.
- C. The third message centered on the fullness of the riches of Christ.
- D. This message deals with the riches of Christ, and the riches of the benefits He gives his people.

## Introduction:

- A. At the time of the writing of Revelation, the Apostle John was the only living Apostle.
  - 1. He was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos by the Roman government.
  - 2. His encounter with Christ on the isle of Patmos has left great mysteries to the minds of men down through the ages, as they try to rightly interpret this great book.

It is not my intention to get into the doctrines of eschatology. What I want to do is show the riches of our LORD from this chapter, and their benefits in the lives of the people of GOD.

## I. The Great Riches of the Faithfulness of Christ – Vs 5

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

- The Greek word “pistos” is translated "faithful" and is an interesting word.
- It means “a person or persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties.”

Speaking of Christ:

A. Christ was faithful at a very early age:

1. Luke 2:42-52: (tell the story)

“And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Most of the childhood of the Lord Jesus Christ is hidden. But, God revealed this particular event that we could see the Lord’s faithfulness to his Father.

B. The Riches of Christ faithfulness are seen in his faithful declaration of whom He was and what He came to do.

1. It is seen in his promise of Matthew 5:17-18

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

2. We see it in his mission: Matthew 9:12-13:

“But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

3. We see his faithfulness in his teaching to his disciples - Luke 9:51-56

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.”

4. We see his faithfulness in his confirmation that he had not come of himself: John 7:28-29

“Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.”

## **II. The Great Riches of Christ are seen in His Grand and Glorious Resurrection – Vs. 5**

“...and the first begotten of the dead”..

This is the believer’s great hope!

The disciples did not understand everything that the Lord taught them while He was here on the earth. But after his resurrection they began to understand things much more clearly.

Because they were eyewitnesses of Christ arising from the dead – the Apostles had a great hope in the faithfulness of Christ to fulfill all that He had promised and taught them.

The Apostle John had no fear of death. He did not fear the unknown. He had a great hope (assurance) in all that Christ had taught him prior to his death and ascension.

A. The word "begotten" is used 24 times in the Word of God. All 24 times it refers to Christ:

1. John 1:14, "The only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth."
2. John 1:18, "The only begotten one that hath seen the Father."
3. John 3:16, "That he gave his only begotten son" to save us"
4. Hebrews 5:5, "He is Declare the "begotten" by the Father"

"So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee."

5. In our text Revelation 1:5 He is spoken of as the first begotten from the dead and the "prince of the kings of the earth." This speaks of his faithful ruler ship.

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

6. In Psalm 2 the Kings of this earth are warned.

Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

### **III. The Eternal Riches of Christ are seen in what He has done for his people. – Vs. 5-6**

A. The great love he has for his people:

John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

1. It is a faithful love:

John 13:1, "Having loved his own which were in the world he loved them unto the end."

2. It is an unselfish love:

Luke 22:42, "not my will but thine be done"

3. It is a constraining love:

2 Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:"

4. It is an inseparable love:

Romans 8:35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Romans 8:37, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

B. Again verse 5 of our text: The great work he did for us: "washed us for our sins"

1. It is judicial cleansing:

Acts 13:38-39, "Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

2. It is needful cleansing:

Luke 18:13, "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

C. The great privilege of his riches bestowed upon us: "made us kings and priests"

1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1. This speaks of two things – Privilege & Position

“Through their relation in Christ; believers have a kingdom that cannot be moved, or taken away. They have right to all the privileges and immunities of Christ.

Grace is implanted and reigns in them and produces righteousness, true holiness, inward peace, spiritual joy

There is also coming a day when we will rule and reign upon the earth.

Gill said, ...”and entitled to the riches of glory in another world; they live like kings, they wear royal apparel, the robe of Christ’s righteousness; they sit at the king’s table, and feed on royal dainties; and are attended on as kings, angels being their life guards, and ministering spirits to them; and hereafter they shall reign with Christ on earth, and that for the space of a thousand years, and, after that, for ever: being raised up from a low estate, to inherit the crown of glory, to wear the crown of life and righteousness, and possess the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world, of which they are now heirs: and they are “priests”, as well as kings; being made so by Christ.”