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The Unsearchable Riches of Christ: Ephesians 3:8, 1927 - 1930

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----- glory, save in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"; and again, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified". From his first sermon to his last, when he laid down his life upon the block to seal his testimony with his blood, he preached Christ and nothing but Christ.

Oh, that all ministers of today would follow Paul's beautiful example and preach Christ and Him Crucified. The world today is the same as that it was in Paul's time - perishing in its sins. And the only message that can save the world today is the message preached by St. Paul to the perishing world of his time: the Gospel of God's own Son Jesus and how He died for the sins of the world.

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"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."

The Unsearchable riches of Christ

St. Paul preached Christ. He felt it to be a great privilege to be allowed to preach the Gospel and entered upon his calling with intense delight. Fired with sacred enthusiasms, he preached the love of Jesus, the wonderful story of the cross, to a perishing world. Never was he at a loss for a subject of his sermons. He had been in the college of Christ and had thoroughly learned his one subject, so that preferring it beyond all else, he said, with solemn decision, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"; and again, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified". From his first sermon to his last, when he laid down his neck upon the block to seal his testimony with his blood, he preached Christ and nothing but Christ.

Oh, that all ministers of today would follow Paul's beautiful example and preach Christ and Him Crucified! The world today is the same as that it was in Paul's time - perishing in its sins. And the only message that can save the world today is the message preached by St. Paul to the perishing world of his time: the Gospel of God's own Son become man and nailed to the accursed tree of the cross to atone for the sins of the world.

But the great majority of modern preachers

has forgotten its commission to preach the Gospel.

The churches of today, led astray by their spiritual leaders who refuse to see the light, are doing that which is not the church's business; they are engaged in mere social reforms, they are meddling in politics, they are providing for the wants of the body, for the needs of the mind, and are letting the immortal souls of men go hungry. The modern pulpit has been turned into a lecture platform, from which the modern preachers speak on a large variety of subjects, many of which have nothing at all to do with the spiritual and eternal welfare of man. Doctrinal preaching has gone out of fashion, and the old Gospel of salvation has been discarded. - In this connection permit me to quote the words of an eminent English divine. He says, "There are some preachers who can manage to deliver a sermon and leave out Christ's name altogether. Surely, the true believer will stand like Mary Magdalene over the sermon and say, They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him. Take away Christ from the sermon and you have taken away its essence! The marrow of theology is Christ. The very bone and sinew of the Gospel is preaching Christ. A Christless sermon is the merriment of hell. A Christless sermon is a dreadful waste of time. It brings upon the speaker the blood of souls, and dyes that man's skirt with gore who dares to preach it. But too much of Christ we cannot have. Give us Christ always, Christ ever! The monotony of Christ is sweet variety, and even the unity of Christ hath in it all the elements of harmony. Christ on His cross and on His throne,

in the manger and in the tomb - Christ everywhere is sweet to us. We love His name, we adore His person, we delight to hear of His works."

My friends, would you know the mark of God's true ministers? It is this: they preach Christ, the story of the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us, as their one choice and delightful theme. If Christ Crucified, the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, be the great delight of the preacher's soul, the very marrow of his preaching, he has proved his calling as an ambassador of Christ. Oh, to speak of Christ alone - to be tied and bound to this one theme forever; to speak alone of Jesus and of His amazing love, "who though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor", this is the live coal for the lip of the preacher and the master-key to the heart of the hearer.

Paul, in the text, tells us that he preached THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHNESS OF CHRIST. Paul had no stunted Savior to present to a few, no weak Redeemer who could pardon only little offenders; but he preached a great Savior to great sinners, a Savior who is able to save to the uttermost.

And now in what respect has Jesus, whose name is "mighty to save", possession of unspeakable riches?

Our answer is first, HE HAS UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF LOVE TO SINNERS. Jesus so loved the souls of men that we can only use the word "so", but we cannot find the word adequately to qualify it. - In the French Revolution, there was a young man condemned to the guillotine, and shut up in one of the prisons. He was greatly loved by many, but there was one who loved him more than all put

together. How do we know this? It was his own father; and the love he bore his son was proved in this way: when the lists were called, the father, whose name was exactly the same as the son's, answered to the name, and the father was taken to the place of execution, and his head rolled beneath the ax instead of the son's.

See here an image of the love of Christ to sinners. For thus Christ died for the ungodly. If they had not been ungodly, neither they nor He had needed to have died; if they had not sinned, there would have been no need for a suffering Savior; but Jesus proved His boundless love in that, while we yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Your name, my friend, was in the condemned list; but if you believe in Jesus, you shall find that your name is there no longer, for Christ's name is put in your stead, and you shall learn that He suffered for you, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring you to God and salvation.

Is not this the greatest wonder of divine love, that it should be set upon sinners? I can understand God's loving sinners who have repented and believe in His Son as their Redeemer; but here is the glory of it, "God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we yet sinners, Christ died for us."

O my friends, from my inmost heart I pray that this boundless wealth of love on the part of Jesus to those who were rebels and enemies, may win your hearts to love the heavenly Lover in return.

In the next place, JESUS HAS RICHES OF PARDON FOR THOSE WHO REPENT OF THEIR SINS. By His suffering and death Jesus has become immensely

rich in pardoning power, so rich indeed that no sin and guilt is so great that it cannot be blotted out by His precious blood. His blood cleanseth from all sin; it can wash out blasphemy, adultery, fornication, lying, slander, perjury, murder, or by what other name the sin may be named.

Though you have wallowed in the very mire of sin, though you have blackened yourself with sin to the color of a devil, yet if you desire pardon, O sinner, there is no reason why you should not have it; and if you will come to Christ and ask for mercy, He will absolve you from all sin. Come to the fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Again, CHRIST HAS RICHES OF COMFORT FOR ALL THAT MOURN. My friend, what is the cause of your sorrow, of your weeping? Is it your sin? Oh, Jesus has a handkerchief of the most soft mercy to wipe away your tears. Do but come to Him, and your deepest sorrow shall disappear beneath the influence of His sympathetic love. - Are you sorrowful because you have lost a friend? He will be a Friend to you; yea, He is that Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. - Are you low-spirited because of poverty, or reverses? Come to Christ, and you shall not want. Confide in Him and He shall never forsake you; lay hold of Him, and you shall say with the Apostle, "I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content", for He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee".

My friends, I have by no means exhausted the

unsearchable riches of Christ. You cannot count them; much less can you convey them in words. They are unsearchable. You may look and search and weigh, but Christ is a greater Christ than you think Him to be when your thoughts are at the highest. His riches. AMEN.

But in closing, I shall add but this one thought: that the unsearchable riches of Christ will be best known in eternity. They are not so much to be enjoyed here as there. He will give you by the road and on the way to heaven all your needs; your bread shall be given you, and your water shall be sure. But it is in heaven, where you shall know and taste and experience the full abundance of His unsearchable riches.

My friends, if you win Christ, you have obtained riches which you can take with you in the hour of death. When your spirit quits this poor body of clay, as it must, what will your silver and your gold do for you then? They cannot comfort you, they cannot brace you up and steel you for the last great combat. But if you receive Jesus into your heart, He will be death's best antidote; He will comfort you with the forgiveness of your sins; He will clothe you in the spotless robes of His own righteousness in which you can appear unafraid in the presence of God; He will strengthen you to meet the last foe; He will give you the victory over death, grave and hell. Oh, if you have Christ, you will in safety pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death, you will reach the heavenly goal, and there you shall be rich, world without end.

Oh, then, believe in Him that He is a great

Christ, a mighty Savior. Come, and do Him honor by trusting in Him as your Redeemer. Come with your great sins, and your great cares, and your great wants. Come to Him now, and the Lord will receive you; He will make you partakers of His unsearchable riches. AMEN.