

THE RICHES OF JESUS CHRIST

Ephesians 3:1-8

Introduction: Of all those who writings about Jesus Christ are recorded in the New Testament, none stand out like the writings of Paul. His attitude toward his ministry, his views of the great honor to serve the Lord Jesus and all the honors God gives plus his views of his service and his life given to honor the Lord Jesus in some way, is unexcelled. Paul is a great example for the rest of us in attitude, accepting responsibility and recognizing what God has done for us through the Lord Jesus. Paul writes in this text about the riches that are found in Jesus Christ.

I. IT WAS AN HONORED PRIVILEGE TO BE CALLED TO PREACH

1. Old Testament prophets were called by God to preach to God's people and they responded. Angels were sent at the birth of Jesus to announce His birth and the importance of it. Paul and Silas were called to preach and ended up in jail for doing so.
2. *Romans 16:7* - There were preachers before Paul and he gladly, proudly mentions them in his writings.
3. Paul maintained a constant attitude of gratitude for being selected by the Lord to preach to the Gentiles.
4. Unlike Paul, many preachers of today's generation do not share Paul's enthusiasm about being chosen to preach. Many question why they are called. To Paul it was an honored privilege to be called to preach the Lord's Gospel, and well it should be to all who are called.

II. GOD'S GLORIOUS GOODNESS BROUGHT GLADNESS

1. In most of Paul's writings he bursts out in praise about the many good and wonderful things God has given or done for him. *Romans 9-11; II:33-36*
2. Paul's entire Christian life may be described as a man standing with his arms raised in praise to God, constantly in awe.
3. Oh, that we, today, could feel toward God as did Paul, how different our preaching would be.

III. THE RICHES OF THE PERSON OF JESUS

1. Paul preached much about the person of Jesus:
 - Justification by faith in the atoning work Jesus did.
 - The suffering of Jesus for man.
 - The sanctification by the Holy Spirit.
 - Being made into the image of Jesus Christ.
2. Paul preached of Jesus' deity even before His human birth, then the "daring" life of Jesus when winds stilled at His voice, waves kissed His feet, angels ministered to Him, demons fled at His presence, diseases turned to health at His Word, dead raised to life at His command.

3. O, the unsearchable riches in Jesus Christ Paul thought of and preached about - and so should we.

IV. THE RICHES OF JESUS' ATONING POWER

1. Jesus Christ has power to save even the Old Testament saints and faithful before the Cross.
2. Jesus suffered much by His own people after being betrayed by one of His own. He was whipped, then crucified outside the city walls from which He had recently cried over their lostness.
- In the eyes of those around, the death of Jesus was nothing special other than a fanatic had been silenced, but in the eyes of God - well, this was His Son and His Son had died for the sins of all mankind. What a difference.
3. God promises to all who believe on His Son that they shall have eternal life in a prepared place and will have new bodies and will share all that Jesus has, ruling and reigning with Him.

V. THE RICHES OF JESUS' ASCENTION

1. Believers are joint heirs with Jesus Christ and in heaven Jesus is the believer's advocate.
2. The believer's promise, pledge and guarantee is in Jesus Christ.
3. *1 Corinthians 2:9* - Believers will never know all that Jesus Christ has done, is doing and shall do for them.
4. Jesus intercedes for the believer because of His love for and interest in people - YOU and me.

VI. THE RICHES OF JESUS' PRESENCE

1. There are uncountable riches awaiting the believer in heaven, BUT there are also uncountable riches right down here. Jesus is all around us, He is in all we do, where we go, every where Jesus is there.
2. A wife's husband died on Christmas but wasn't overly sad. When asked how she felt, she said it was God's Christmas gift to her husband. God took him home to be with Jesus, the angels and all his family and friends that were already there.
3. Think about all that Jesus does for you every day.

VII. THE RICHES OF JESUS' RETURN

1. *Ephesians 4:8* - We give each other gifts, some expensive, some inexpensive, some hand made, most bought, some out of love, some simply out of courtesy, but compare what we give to what Jesus gives: Jesus gave eyesight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, walk to the crippled, life to the dead.
2. Many fear now and shall fear then when Jesus does return. Would you be afraid if Jesus came today?

3. The same Jesus who died on the cross will return. When He ascended into heaven, He told those there to be busy spreading the Gospel and that He would be coming back to the very same spot He left from. Christian, look forward to that wonderful moment.

VIII. JESUS' UNENDING RICHES

1. Jesus' provision for His Church, for believers has not run out through all these centuries.
2. The great hymn "Just As I Am" clearly explains our position, our attitude and that Jesus provides all we need. We are to accept Jesus' gifts and promises by faith.
3. We have no righteousness, no goodness, nothing whatsoever to brag about or to take to God and expect some reward. We need somebody to stand up for us and that somebody is Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. If only every Christian could develop Paul's attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ. How different the Church would be, how different the preaching would be, how different the world would be.
2. Jesus is the source for everything a person needs to live on this earth and to get to heave. There is no other "name" in heaven or down here other than Jesus that we can turn to for acceptance by God.
3. Jesus is all we need. He provides all we have to have. Who is Jesus to you?