

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

Ephesians 3:8-13

INTRODUCTION: Paul speaks as a man in chains, yet overflowing with confidence. He calls himself “the very least of all the saints,” yet he knows he has been entrusted with an enormous grace: to preach Christ’s unsearchable riches and to unveil God’s age-old mystery. Through this mystery—Jew and Gentile united in one body—God is using the church to display His wisdom not only on earth, but even to spiritual rulers in heavenly places.

I. HUMBLE SERVANT ON A GRACE POWERED MISSION vv.8-9

A. Paul perceives himself as being the least of all the saints. v.8

1. Paul never lost sight of his past persecution of the church.
1 Corinthians 15:9, Acts 8:3-4
2. It helped him to never lose sight of God’s marvelous grace. 1
Corinthians 15:9-10
3. The knowledge of his personal shortcomings enabled him to see clearly the power of God in his life. *1 Timothy 1:12-14*

B. Paul’s grace empowered mission was to preach the blessings of Christ. v.8

1. The unsearchable riches of Christ include the riches of His grace, relationship, and power for the believers.
2. It was specifically to the Gentiles that Paul would bring this message. *Romans 11:33-34*
3. Paul did not see this as a burden, but a gift from God.

C. His mission was to also illuminate God's hidden plan. v.9

1. His task was to shine the light of Jesus where there had only been darkness.
2. His message was all about the plan of the mystery. *Romans 10:13-14, John 3:17-18*
3. His wider audience was truly everyone, for are all created by God and the revelation is for all. v.9, *1 Corinthians 9:20-22*

II. COSMIC DISPLAY OF GOD'S WISDOM BY CHRIST vv.10-11

A. This message would come through the church. v.10

1. The church was then to become the vessel by which the manifold wisdom of God would be revealed.
2. The unity of the Jews and the Gentiles would be a sign of this manifold wisdom.
3. This witness is revealed to the realms of both the seen and the unseen. *Colossians 1:16*

B. The was all part of God's eternal purpose. v.11

1. God purposed salvation before the foundation of the world and not as a reaction to sin. *2 Timothy 1:9*
2. It arises from the counsel of His will and not human merit, initiative or request. *Romans 9:16*
3. This means God remained consistent throughout scripture as the covenants, promises and prophets pointed to one eternal plan centered in Christ. *Galatians 3:8*

C. Redemption is fully accomplished in Christ. v.11

1. The eternal purpose was brought into effect through Christ's finished work on the cross and resurrection from the dead.
Hebrews 9:12
2. Everyone who believed would benefit from this blood payment.
3. The redemption benefit plan is one that continues from the day of salvation to all of eternity.

III. BOLD CONFIDENCE AND STEADFAST COURAGE vv.12-13

A. In Christ, believers have boldness, access and confidence. v.12

1. We are granted this because of our union with Christ.
2. The boldness is in us, and the access has been given, which leads to confidence. v.12, *Ephesians 6:19-20*
3. All of this comes through our faith in Him. v.12

B. The church's approach to witnessing a time of trial is to not lose heart. v.13

1. The reality is that Paul was in prison at the time and he was barred from going anywhere.
2. It would have been very tempting to become discouraged by looking at Paul's circumstances.
3. Paul is encouraging them to persevere and not lose heart. 2
Corinthians 4:16, Colossians 3:2

C. The church is encouraged to perceive the glory which is being manifested. *v.13*

1. Persecution is part of God's plan for the believers. *John 15:20*
2. Amid the persecution we can still bless others by responding properly.
3. Paul wanted them to know that it was for their glory that he was being persecuted. *v.13 AMPC*

CONCLUSION: Christ's unsearchable riches rescued Paul the persecutor, united Jew and Gentile into one new people, and give the church bold access, confident witness, and steadfast courage. Let us treasure this grace, trust God's eternal purpose, and live as living displays of His wisdom.