

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

T H E B O O K O F EPHESIANS *How to live the Christian life*

EPHESIANS: HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – PART 18
“The Unfathomable Riches of Christ” II - Ephesians 3:8

“¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.” -Ephesians 3:1-7 (NKJV)

“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” -Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)

KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EPHESIANS

To gain a better understanding of the Book of Ephesians, consider the following background information:

1. **Authorship: The Apostle Paul** - Traditionally attributed to the Apostle Paul.
2. **Date of Writing: A.D. 60-63** - Likely written around A.D. 60-63 during Paul's Roman imprisonment.
3. **Place of writing: Rome** – Paul wrote the book/letter of Ephesians from a Roman prison
4. **Audience: Ephesian Christians at Ephesus and surrounding area** Addressed to the Christian community in Ephesus, a major city in Asia Minor. Ephesians is considered a

“circular letter” meant to be circulated to church in the area of Ephesus... possibly the same 7 churches

5. **Purpose: How to live the Christian life** To strengthen the faith of believers and address issues of unity and spiritual maturity.
 6. **Themes: Grace, the church, and holy living** - Key themes include grace, the church as the body of Christ, and the importance of living a holy life.
 7. **Structure: Ephesus is divided into two main sections** - Divided into two main sections: doctrinal teachings (chapters 1-3) and practical applications (chapters 4-6).
 8. **Cultural Context: Ephesus was center of commerce and religion** - Ephesus was a center of commerce and religion, known for the Temple of Artemis.
 9. **Significance: Mystery of the gospel and inclusion of Gentiles** - Emphasizes the mystery of the Gospel and the inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan.
 10. **Spiritual Warfare: Ephesians' emphasis on the spiritual battle** Concludes with a call to spiritual readiness and the armor of God (chapter 6).
-

Application Questions

1. Can conviction of sin and repentance come *after* conversion or must these things be present for conversion to take place?
2. Neil Anderson argues that if you see yourself as a sinner, you will sin. Thus we should see ourselves only as saints who occasionally sin. Agree/disagree? Why?
3. Christian psychologists argue that sometimes a Christian needs more than the Bible to help with severe emotional problems. Agree/disagree? Why?
4. Discuss: God permits problems in our lives to teach us more about the all-sufficiency of Christ. If true, what implications does this have for “Christian psychology”?

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, “God forbid that any of us should live like paupers! God forbid that any of us should be in . . . need and want and troubled and alarmed and unsteady! The world today is presenting us with a unique opportunity of telling men and women about “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” We are being watched, we are being observed; and many in their spiritual bankruptcy are wondering whether, after all, the answer is in Christ. The world judges Him by what it sees in us. If we give the impression that, after all, to be a Christian does not help very much when there is a crisis, they will not listen to our message or look to Him. But if they find that we are entirely different from them, and able to maintain a calm and balance and peace and poise, and even joy in the middle of the hurricane of life, under God that may be the means of opening their eyes, and leading them to repentance, and bringing them to the Lord Jesus Christ and His ‘unsearchable riches.’”

1. Why do you think he says, *“God forbid that any of us (as Christians) should live like paupers! God forbid that any of us should be in . . . need and want and troubled and alarmed and unsteady!”*? Based on what?
2. In what way is *“the world today presenting us with a unique opportunity”* today to make our faith known? And how do you think *“the unsearchable riches of Christ”* play into that?
3. How should the fact that *“we are being watched and observed”* change how we live each day? How should the fact that *“we are being watched”* affect how we handled the adversity and obstacles, trying circumstances and difficulties?
4. Respond to this part of Lloyd-Jones quote, *“If we give the impression that, after all, to be a Christian does not help very much when there is a crisis, they will not listen to our message or look to Him. But if they find that we are entirely different from them, and able to maintain a calm and balance and peace and poise, and even joy in the middle of the hurricane of life, under God that may be the means of opening their eyes...”*

What are the “Unfathomable Riches”? “Unfathomable” means deep, profound, bottomless, immeasurable, vast, uncomprehensible, incomprehensible, unknowable, indecipherable) The word “riches” means, treasures. The word is used 22x in New Testament ... 14 specifically refer to the riches we have in Christ — The root word for “riches” is the idea to “furnish” or “fill” or “accomplish.” The Bible give us some indications of what are some of the “unfathomable riches” of Christ. Let’s explore a few of these and consider what make some of these riches unfathomable...

10 Verses that Mention Some of the Unfathomable Riches of Christ/God

- (1) **Romans 2:4** – *“⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”* The New American Standard (1995) says, *“⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”* What is so rich about God’s goodness/kindness, His forbearance or tolerance, His longsuffering or patience? How do we “think lightly” of these riches?
- (2) **Romans 9:23** – *“²³ And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,”* What is so rich about God’s mercy toward us? How does His mercy show His glory?
- (3) **Romans 11:33** – *“³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”* What is so rich about God’s wisdom and knowledge? What do you think is meant by His unsearchable judgements?
- (4) **Ephesians 1:7-8** – *“⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.”* What is so rich about God’s forgiveness of our sins?

- (5) **Ephesians 1:18** – I pray that the... *“¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” What is so rich about God’s inheritance to us and our hope in Him?*
- (6) **Ephesians 2:7** – *“⁷ That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” What is so rich about God’s grace toward us?*
- (7) **Ephesians 3:16** – *“¹⁶ That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.” What do you think is meant in this verse by “the riches of His glory” in us?*
- (8) **Philippians 4:19** – *“¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” What do you think is the link between God supplying our needs and the riches of His glory in this verse?*
- (9) **Colossians 1:27** – *“²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” What is so rich about God’s mystery to the Gentiles (us)?*
- (10) **Colossians 2:1–3** – *“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” What is so rich about God’s full assurance of salvation?*

“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)

It is my normal, weekly experience to feel overwhelmed by inadequacy as I attempt to preach/teach God’s Word. But when I come to a subject as vast as the unfathomable riches of Christ, I am almost paralyzed! It makes me realize how little of these immeasurable riches of Christ that I experience personally. It overwhelms me to think about what I can say on so profound a subject. So I am unusually aware that unless God anoints His Word with power, my feeble words will surely fail.

You would think that if you announced on the sign out front and in the newspaper that someone was speaking on the unfathomable riches of Christ, people would line up hours before the services, waiting to get in. “Free eternal riches will be given out at First Baptist Church Buda! Come and get all that you can!” But, as far as I know, no one had to wait in line to get in the door.

Even among the Lord’s people, some have “more important” things to do this evening than to come and explore more deeply the unfathomable riches of Christ. Some were too tired or

too busy. I hope not, but perhaps some saw the title and thought, “Ho hum! That doesn’t sound very practical! Why doesn’t he talk about more relevant things?”

Maybe **Jonathan Edwards** sheds some light on this when he observed (*The Works of Jonathan Edwards* [Banner of Truth], 2:147), “The more holy any being is, the more sweet and delightful will it be to him to behold the glory and beauty of the Supreme Being.” He was preaching on Ephesians 3:10, where Paul says that the manifold wisdom of God is now made known through the church to the angelic hosts. The angels, who are perfect in holiness, greatly delight in the manifold wisdom of God as seen in the unfathomable riches of Christ. So if the subject bores you, you had better check your heart. The glory and beauty of Jesus Christ should captivate us so that out of great joy, we sell everything in order to gain the treasure of Christ (Matt. 13:44-46).

I was going to teach on verses 8-13, which are a unit, but Paul not only talks about the unfathomable riches of Christ, but also of God’s eternal purpose as it relates to the church and of two practical consequences of these mind-boggling truths. So I had to limit myself to verse 8, which shows us that...

Sinners may freely partake of the unfathomable riches of Christ. How does this make you feel? (Explain)

“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)

3 Implicit (implied, indired, inferred, understood) Truths from Ephesians 3:8:

- (1) The unfathomable riches of Christ are offered only to sinners**
- (2) The unfathomable riches of Christ center on the person of Jesus Christ**
- (3) Christ invites you to come and partake freely of all that He is**

Let’s take a look at each of these statements as they are taught in our passage (Ephesians 3:8)...

THE UNFATHOMABLE RICHES OF CHRIST ARE OFFERED ONLY TO SINNERS

Luke 1:53 states, “*He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed.*” The spiritually hungry are sinners who see their need for forgiveness. The rich see no need for salvation. Bill Gates doesn’t spend his time standing in line at the welfare office. He doesn’t need their help. If you think that you have enough righteousness on your own to get into heaven, then you will not see your need for the unfathomable riches of Christ. Three things in our text show that these riches of Christ are offered only to sinners:

3 Things in Ephesians 3:8 that Show that These Riches of Christ are Offered Only to Sinners:

(1) **Paul preached the gospel to the Gentiles** – *“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)* The Gentiles were not godly people! The religious Jews despised them as filthy dogs. They did not obey the Jewish Law. They made up their own standards for morality, which were abominable in God’s sight.

- The Ephesians, as we’ve seen, were steeped in the occult, and so many of them were plagued by demons that it spawned an industry for professional exorcists (Acts 19:13-16).
- They “worshipped” at the pagan Temple of Diana, which involved immorality with the temple prostitutes.
- They did a thriving business selling idols, which ignorant people bought in hopes of solving their problems.
- These Gentiles were about as far from the living and true God as anyone could be.
- And yet, when Paul came to Ephesus and preached the unfathomable riches of Christ, so many got saved that it threatened the idol-makers’ business.

The same thing happened when Paul preached the gospel to the notoriously immoral Corinthians. He wrote to them in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”*

Or, as he wrote to the Christians in Rome in Romans 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

In fact, the most difficult sinners to reach are religious sinners, because they do not see their desperate need. If God has opened your eyes to see that you have sinned against Him and are guilty of eternal judgment, then He offers to you the unfathomable riches of Christ in exchange for your spiritual poverty.

(2) **Paul saw himself as the least of all saints** – *“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)* Paul coins a word that means, *“I am less than the least.”* This was not a mock humility on Paul’s part, but rather his honest feelings as he thought about his sinful past. Think of it...

- In his self-righteousness, Paul (Saul) had persecuted the church.
- His spiritual pride led him to think that he was doing God a favor by killing sincere, innocent believers!

- So, after God graciously stopped him in his tracks, Paul never got over the great mercy that God had shown to him.
- In 1 Corinthians 15:9, he said, *“For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”*
- Here, he sees himself as the least of all the saints.
- And, later in life (1 Timothy 1:15), he says that *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”* He uses the present tense. *The closer you draw to God and see His holiness, the more aware you become of the sinfulness of your own heart.*
- We see this with **Isaiah**, who instantly became aware of his sinfulness when he saw the Lord
- **Job**, the most righteous man on earth, repented in dust and ashes when he had his encounter with God (Job 42:6).
- That has been the uniform experience of every saint throughout history.
- The closer they are to God, the more they lament their own sinfulness.
- ➔ • **John Calvin** points this out often in his writings. For example, he wrote (*Calvin’s Commentaries* [Baker], on Psalm 32:1, p. 526), *“The more eminently that any one excels in holiness, the farther he feels himself from perfect righteousness, and the more clearly he perceives that he can trust in nothing but the mercy of God alone.”*

The point is, *the unfathomable riches of Christ are only offered to those who see themselves to be poverty-stricken sinners.* The only servants that God uses are those who see that they are inadequate clay pots, but that God has put His treasure in them (2 Cor. 2:16; 3:5; 4:7).

(3) Paul could only preach Christ because God had given him grace – *“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)* As we saw last week, Paul was so overwhelmed by God’s grace that he couldn’t stop repeating himself. He mentions it in...

- Ephesians 3:2 – *“² If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you.”*
- Ephesians 3:7 – *“⁷ Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”*
- Ephesians 3:8 – *“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”-*
- Paul knew that the only reason he could preach Christ was that God had given him grace.
- **(READ: Matthew 20:1-6 – The Parable of the Workers in the Vinyard)** Paul was like the workers in Jesus’ parable (Matt. 20:1-16) who got hired late in the day. The

story involved a landowner who went into the marketplace early in the day and hired some workers, agreeing to pay them a denarius for their day's labor. Later in the morning, he hired some more, promising to give them whatever is right. He did the same thing in the early and mid-afternoon. Finally, an hour before quitting time, he hired some others. When it came time to pay the workers, those who were hired at the last hour were paid a denarius. Those who had worked all day thought that they would get more, but they just got the denarius that the owner had promised them. When they grumbled, the owner told them that they had no right to grumble. He gave them what he had agreed on. But, if he wanted to be generous with what is his, why should they be envious? **That parable illustrates God's grace.**

- We wrongly start thinking that God owes it to us because of our hard work for Him.
- But if He owes it, it's not grace.
- Grace is always undeserved.
- Since we did nothing to deserve it, we can't demand it.
- So, if we grew up in the church and God saves us and calls us to preach His good news, it is pure grace.
- If we grew up in the streets as gang members and God saves us and calls us to preach, it is pure grace.

➡ • As someone has well said, **"When we share the gospel with others, it is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."**

Before we leave this point, that the unfathomable riches of Christ are offered only to sinners, note three applications:

Three 3 Applications to this Idea that the Unfathomable Riches of Christ are Offered only to Sinners:

- (1) **When you present the gospel, you must speak about sin, righteousness, and judgment** - If the person you are talking with is clearly broken and repentant over his sin, you don't have to hammer it so hard. **But in my experience, most people think of themselves as basically good.** They think that God will let them into heaven because they aren't as bad as the child molesters, murders, criminals and terrorists of the world. If you tell these people that God loves them and recite John 3:16, they think, "Yes, of course, I am so loveable! But, thank you for reminding me!" But if they are not convicted of sin and do not see the absolute righteousness of God and do not fear His impending judgment on their evil thoughts, words, and deeds, then they do not see their need for the Savior. Take them to the Sermon on the Mount and show them that in God's sight, anger is murder and lust is adultery.
- (2) **When you pray for the lost, pray that they will come under conviction for their sin** - Unless, as Spurgeon put it, they feel the rope around their neck, they will not weep for joy when the Savior cuts it and frees them. Pray that unbelievers will read God's Word and that the Holy Spirit will convict them of their guilt in God's sight.

(3) **After you have trusted in Christ, you become a saint who is yet at the same time a sinner...don't lose the balance** - There is some popular, but badly unbalanced teaching on this matter. Neil Anderson's books emphasize that as a believer, you are not a sinner, not even a sinner saved by grace. Rather, you are a saint who occasionally sins (see, *Victory Over the Darkness* [Regal Books], pp. 44-45; see my review on the church web site, under "Articles"). He is rightly trying to present our new identity in Christ, but he denies what every godly person in the Bible and down through history has affirmed, that we are *both* saints and yet sinners. The closer we draw to God, the more we feel the tension. If we let go of either side, we are out of balance spiritually. The unfathomable riches of Christ are offered only to sinners.

Second, consider...

THE UNFATHOMABLE RICHES OF CHRIST CENTER ON THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

"⁸To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

If we have Jesus Christ, then we have every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3). All of God's promises are "yes" in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). God's "divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (2 Pet. 1:3). Note two things:

2 Things to Note About The Gospel and Jesus:

(1) The gospel is not about rules, regulations, or religious rituals, but rather about knowing Jesus Christ Himself –

- Note that Paul did not proclaim to the Gentiles the moral rules of Christianity, although there are obviously moral standards in the Bible.
- He didn't proclaim to them how they could go through baptism or receive the Lord's Supper or pray the rosary or go through any other religious ceremonies or rituals to get right with God.
- Rather, he proclaimed to them the good news of the unfathomable riches of Christ.
- Paul himself had sought to please God by keeping all of the Jewish rituals.
- In fact, he prided himself in how well he observed the Jewish law (Phil. 3:5-6).
- But he said of these things in **Philippians 3:8, "*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.*"**
- ***Christianity is at its heart a matter of knowing Jesus Christ personally.***
- ***If you do not know Him, then all of the religious rituals in the world will be of no value to you.***
- You must know Christ and be growing to know Him more deeply.

(2) **Jesus Christ possesses in Himself unfathomable riches and He gives these riches to all that call upon Him** - Here is where I'm in way over my head! Jesus Christ is the infinite, eternal God who took on human flesh so that He could give Himself as the only satisfactory and perfect sacrifice for our sins.

- As Paul expresses it in 2 Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."*
- The person of Christ is unfathomable, in that we can never completely get to the bottom of who He is and what He did for us on the cross.
- The word, "unfathomable," is used only one other time in the New Testament, in Romans 11:33, where Paul exclaims, *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"*
- The word is used twice in the Greek Old Testament to describe God's unfathomable ways in His creation (Job 5:9; 9:10).
- One preacher compared it to a man who was tracking out the confines of what he thought to be a small lake. But he discovered that it was an arm of the ocean, and so he was confronted by the immeasurable sea (J. H. Jowett, *The Passion for Souls*, p. 10, cited by Francis Foulkes, *Ephesians* [IVP/Eerdmans], p. 97).
- "Riches" refers to true, lasting, eternal spiritual wealth that we have in Jesus Christ.
- **(READ: Luke 12:13-21 – The Parable of the Rich Fool)** Jesus told the parable of the rich man who decided to build bigger barns to hold more wealth, but God required his soul of him that very night. Jesus said in Luke 12:21, *"So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*
- He instructed us not to lay up treasures on earth, which can and will be taken from us, in Matthew 6:29, *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal."*
- The fact that Christ possesses in Himself unfathomable riches and that He gives these riches to all that call upon Him means that He can and will supply our every spiritual and personal need.
- He allows trials into our lives to drive us to a deeper experience of His all-sufficiency for our needs.
 - Are we depressed? He is our joy!
 - Are we discouraged? He is our hope!
 - Are we troubled, anxious, or fearful? He is our peace!
 - Are we weak? He is our strength!

I could go on and on, but for sake of time, I just went through Ephesians up to where we're at and came up with these ten needs that Christ richly supplies:

Ten Needs Christ Richly Supplies in Ephesians:

1. **We need redemption and forgiveness; He is our redemption and the substitute for our sin penalty** - Ephesians 1:7-8a, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us."*
2. **We need love; He predestined us in love to adoption as His children** - Ephesians 1:4b-5, *"In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."*
3. **We need holiness; He chose us to be holy and blameless in Him** - Although we formerly lived according to the lusts of the flesh (Ephesians 2:3), Ephesians 1:4 tells us, *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."*
4. **We need a sense of purpose; He made known to us the mystery of His will and created us in Christ for good works** - Ephesians 1:9, *"He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him."* And in Ephesians 2:10, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*
5. **We need an eternal inheritance (Heaven); He predestined us to obtain that inheritance in Christ** - Ephesians 1:11 says, *"¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."* In Ephesians 1:14 Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit, *"¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*
6. **We need hope; God has made us fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel** – Paul speaks of the "mystery of Christ" in Ephesians 3:5, *"⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets."*
7. **We need power; the surpassing greatness of His power brought us from death to life** – Listen to Ephesians 1:19-20, *"¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."* And in Ephesians 3:7, Paul says, *"of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power."*
8. **We need life; He raised us from death to life** – Ephesians 2:1 says, *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."* And in verse 5 Paul says, *"Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."*
9. **We need peace with God and with one another; He Himself is our peace** – Paul writes in Ephesians 2:14, *"For He himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation."* Ephesians 2:16 says, *"And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."*

10. We need access to God for all our needs; He is our access through the Spirit to the Father (2:18; 3:12) – Paul says in **Ephesians 2:18**, *“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”* And one chapter later in Ephesian 3:12 Paul would write in **Ephesians 3:12**, *“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”*

If you want to read more about the unfathomable riches of Christ, read Spurgeon or Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who are far more eloquent than I am and who both experientially knew the riches of Christ far better than I do. But I hope that from this brief survey, you can see that we do not need to turn to the worldly insights of psychology to meet our deepest needs. We need to go deeper in our knowledge of the unfathomable riches of Christ for our souls.

One final thing to consider...

CHRIST INVITES YOU TO COME AND PARTAKE FREELY OF ALL THAT HE IS

“⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” – Ephesians 3:8

The word translated **“preach”** is literally, **“to proclaim the good news.”** Think on this...

- It would not be good news to hear that Christ has unfathomable riches to offer, but you must earn them.
- It would not be good news to hear that you must first clean up your life to qualify for these riches.
- It is only good news if, as is really true, Christ offers these riches freely to all that call upon Him.
- He invites sinners in **Matthew 11:28**, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”*
- He promised in **John 6:37**, *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”* Will you come to Christ?
- It would be unthinkable foolish to hear that a treasure is available for the taking, but to say, “Sorry, I’m too busy!”
- It would be an insult if a wealthy man sent his limousine to bring a hungry beggar to his lavish banquet, and the beggar said, “I can’t come until I can pay for it.”

Christ offers Himself freely to every sinner. He has unfathomable riches to bestow on you for the asking. Come to Him and begin to enjoy the treasure that you will go on discovering more of throughout all eternity!

CONCLUSION

John Newton, a drunken slave trader who experienced the unfathomable riches of Christ and became a pastor and the author of “Amazing Grace,” put a plaque with **Deuteronomy 15:15**

over his mantle, “Thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee.”

Late in life, a pastor friend noticed that Newton was showing signs of old age and urged him to stop preaching and take life easy. “What!” he replied, “shall the old African blasphemer stop while he can speak at all?”

He wrote his own epitaph, “John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had so long labored to destroy.”

Late in life he said, “My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior!” Newton knew that sinners may freely partake of the unfathomable riches of Christ. Do you?

4 Ways to Respond to Christ’s Unfathomable Riches

(1) The pursuit = Pursue the depth and riches of Jesus

- We need to spend time getting to know the depth and richness of Jesus
- This is ALL about Him
- Matthew 13:44–46 – *“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”* *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*

(2) The posture = Pursue the depth and riches of Jesus in humility

- Ephesians 3:8 – To me, the very least of all saints ...
- This is not about us
- When we see ourselves in light of Him we must walk in humility
- Isaiah 6:5 – *“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”*
- Philippians 3:8 – More than that, *“I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”*

(3) The praise = Pursue the depth and riches of Jesus with praise

- When I see the riches it should cause an endless worship and adoration to our King
- Sunset principle

(4) The proclamation = Proclaim with your life and words the depth of the riches of Jesus

- Continually proclaiming/preaching the unfathomable riches of Christ

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, “God forbid that any of us should live like paupers! God forbid that any of us should be in . . . need and want and trouble and alarm and unsteadiness! The world today is presenting us with a unique opportunity of telling men and women about “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” We are being watched, we are being observed; and many in their spiritual bankruptcy are wondering whether, after all, the answer is in Christ. The world judges Him by what it sees in us. If we give the impression that, after all, to be a Christian does not help very much when there is a crisis, they will not listen to our message or look to Him. But if they find that we are entirely different from them, and able to maintain a calm and balance and peace and poise, and even joy in the middle of the hurricane of life, under God that may be the means of opening their eyes, and leading them to repentance, and bringing them to the Lord Jesus Christ and His ‘unsearchable riches.’”