

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

TRUE RICHES OF GRACE (Part 1)

SCRIPTURE READING:

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence” (Eph 1:1-8).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. According to 2 Corinthians 8:9, our Savior Jesus Christ was rich but became poor in order that we might have the Riches of Grace.** Christ left His throne in Heaven and came to earth – a place of poverty – to die on a Cross for Sin. “He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scripture” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He became poor for us.
- B. “Jesus became a pauper that we might be made a prince.”** – He became poor for us.
- C. Grace is the basis for the Christian faith.** Believers are saved by faith through grace in Christ. Grace is God’s undeserved favor. Grace cannot be earned; it is freely given by God through Christ. Grace is God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.
- ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8-9).

PROPOSITION:

In this lesson, we will study three benefits of the Riches of Grace: (1) Christians are Chosen, (2) Christians are Redeemed, and (3) Christians are Justified.

- I. Christians are Chosen** (2 Thess 2:13)
- “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thess 2:13).
- **“Chosen”** means to take for oneself, to choose, elect, prefer; from the eternal preceding the origin of time.
- A. God is the Originator of Salvation. “God hath from the beginning chosen you to Salvation.”**
1. God has chosen Believers before the world was ever created, “chosen you to Salvation”
 2. God wants us to be in Heaven with Him.

B. God has chosen Believers to be saved before the foundation of the world. He saved us before we were born.

- “²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand” (John 10:28-29).

- “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph 1:4).

C. God has chosen Believers through “Sanctification of the Spirit”

1. The Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, that is, of his need to be saved and given eternal life.
 - “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).

2. The Holy Spirit attracts men to the Cross of Christ through its glorious provisions.
 - “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor 1:18).

 - “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal 6:14).

D. God has chosen Believers through “Belief of the Truth” which means through believing the Gospel of Christ for Salvation.

1. Christians believe in the “miniature Gospel” (John 3:16).

2. Christians believe in the “Gospel in a Nutshell” (1 Cor 15:3-4).

E. The Bible teaches that God chooses men to Salvation, but it never teaches that He chooses some to be damned.

1. No person has ever been saved who did not believe the Gospel.

2. No person who rejects the Gospel of Christ is lost because God has not chosen him. A person is lost because he rejected Christ. God will choose (save) any person who will accept Christ as His personal Savior.

3. God will not force use to become Believers nor will He keep us from becoming Believers. It is God’s desire that all be Saved.
 - “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4).

 - 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.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. No person is forced to accept or reject Christ.

2. Every person is responsible for his own decision.

- Pilate, the governor of Judea, addressing a gathering crowd, raised a profound question: “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? (Matt 27:22).
- All must deal with this question: What have you done or what will you do with Jesus? Accept Jesus = Eternal Life; - Reject Jesus = Eternal Damnation

II. **CHRISTIANS ARE REDEEMED** (1 Peter 1:18-19)

“¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18-19).

- **“Redeemed”** means to let go free for a ransom; to release, deliver; to rescue, bring through safely.

A. **Christ redeemed us so that we would not be exposed as for sale again.**

We are no longer slaves to sin because Jesus paid the penalty we owed. Jesus took us off the market: Believers belong to Christ.

- “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Cor 6:20).
- “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” (Gal 3:13).

B. **Christ redeemed us by purchasing us from sin, death and Satan with His “precious blood”** (v. 19), shed on the cross. Therefore, sin should not be taken lightly, for it required a blood sacrifice and ultimately it led to the death of Jesus.

- “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph 1:7).

C. **Christ died for our sins, in our place, so we would not have to suffer the punishment we deserve.**

- “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet 2:24).
- “⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:4-5).
- **What can wash away my Sin – Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again – Nothing but the Blood of Jesus?**
- “Christ is the Son of God who died for the redemption of sinners and resurrected after three days. This is the greatest truth in the universe. I die because of my belief in Christ – (*Watchman Nee*)
- “The work of redemption was accomplished by Christ in His death on the cross and has in view the payment of the price demanded by a holy God for the deliverance of the believer from the bondage and burden of sin. In redemption the sinner is set free from his condemnation and slavery to sin” – (*John F. Walvoord*).

III. **CHRISTIANS ARE JUSTIFIED** (Rom 3:23, 28)

“²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law” (Rom 3:23, 28).

- **“Justified”** means to show to be righteous, declared righteous; cleared of all charges, acquitted.

A. Justification is the gracious act of God by which He declares a sinner righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

B. Justification means not guilty, the same as acquittal – No longer guilty as a sinner and made acceptable to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

- “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1).

- **What is Justification**

Justification is the declared purpose of God to regard and treat those sinners who believe in Jesus Christ as if they had not sinned, on the ground of the merits of the Savior. It is not mere pardon. Pardon is a free forgiveness of past offenses. It has reference to those sins as forgiven and blotted out. Justification has respect to the law, and to God’s future dealings with the sinner. It is an act by which God determines to treat him hereafter as righteous—as if he had not sinned. The basis for this is the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ, merit that we can plead as if it were our own. He has taken our place and died in our stead; He has met the descending stroke of justice, which would have fallen on our own heads if He had not interposed. - Albert Barnes

MEMORY VERSE:

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Col 1:20).

CONCLUSION:

A. Christians are chosen, redeemed, and justified by God through His Son and Our Savior Jesus Christ.

B. Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!

Redeemed—how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;

Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am.

Redeemed, redeemed, Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;

Redeemed, redeemed, His child, and forever, I am.

C. Romans Road To Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

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“...the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).