

"THE GRACE OF OUR LORD"

II Cor. 8:9

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. It has been said, "*perhaps no single verse of Scripture enhances more fully the meaning of ¹Christ's coming from the heights of glory ²to accomplish man's redemption, than does this passage.*"

B. It sets forth **very clearly** the reason of His GREAT SACRIFICE--"**for our sakes** (benefit)."

1. He did for us what we could not do ourselves -- He satisfied the demands of our Holy God.

a. An angel could not do it; *another human being couldn't do it - **only Jesus!***

1. In the text Paul states **three tremendous facts** concerning **Christ's coming in grace**. **In these he magnifies "The Grace Of Our Lord."** **They are:**

a. "**He was rich.**" (Can I tell you, "He is now!")

b. "**He became poor**" (*while on earth*); ¹He didn't lose it and ²it wasn't taken from Him. **He laid it all aside, giving it all up, for our sake!!**

c. "*That ye (we) might be rich*" (not made rich through his poverty).

II. "**HE WAS RICH.**" **He didn't have to come to earth to get rich.**

A. He was RICH before he became poor, **that's all He ever knew.**

1. He came from a place with streets of gold, gates of pearl, and walls of jasper.

2. **How was He rich? Answer: Materially.** He was Creator and Proprietor of all things.

Col. 1:16 "*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him.**"*

1. **We're to be faithful stewards for Him of that which is His, *and only entrusted to us!!*** We're to make sure what we have **and are,** benefits Him and His Kingdom!

B. Being Creator, all things were at His disposal in the most absolute right.

1. This means that He was (is) over all the treasures of the earth and of the oceans, as well as over all worlds: **Wherever and whatever they are, and;**

2. **And over all the treasures of the universe, known and unknown.**

3. The extent and amount of His material wealth can only be measured **by the extent of His dominion over the entire universe.**

4. He was rich because, as the Son of the Eternal Father, he was heir of all things.

5. **Bottom line:** There is no way or no one in which to compare His riches. **WHY?** What wealth has any man that one might compare it with Christ's riches?

C. **He was also rich in glory:** All the hosts of Heaven honored Him, **and worshipped** before Him with their unending praise. *Multitudes worship Him the night of His birth.* (Luke 2:13).

1. He didn't come to earth to have honor or to be worshipped, this He had in Heaven.

D. **He was rich in power and authority.** In all the realm of creation, *His Word was the Alpha and Omega of law. He spoke and it happened!*

E. We conclude that, far greater than words can describe, or **imagination can ever conceive**, the Son of God, before coming to this earth, **WAS RICH!**

1. **Text states,** "*Though He was rich, yet for your (man's) sake He became poor.*"

III. HE BECAME POOR! Think of those words!

A. He didn't count on having material wealth here when He came.

1. *He would have to trust His Heavenly Father like we're to do. (No travelers check or charge cards.)*

B. He disrobed Himself of the riches of glory that He had with the Father and covered Himself with the paltry flesh of humanity. **WHY?**

1. **So that you and I could identify with Him and He with us.**

Phil. 2:7 "*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*" (Not the form of great or prominent men, *but poverty stricken men*).

2. "Form of a servant." = He wasn't above pain, suffering, or obedience, nor accountability or responsibility = 2 important words for believers to learn.

B. He had the power to choose the manner in which He would come.

1. **He chose to come to one of the poorest families in Galilee.**

2. He knew what it was ¹to work, ²to be weary, ³to be pressured, ⁴to have needs, ⁵to be tempted, etc.

3. Being born in a stable, and laid in a feed trough, He came into this world without a bed to rest His head on.

4. He was **raised in a poor community**, the despised city of Nazareth. *Nathaniel asked Phillip, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"* (Jn. 1:46)

5. All the days of His earthly ministry, He was poor.

Matt. 8:20 *"And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."* **You and I are far richer than He was, while here on earth.**

C. **Unable to provide for His disciples**, at times they had to wander through the fields, plucking the ears of grain for their sustenance. (**Matt. 12:1**)

1. He was **unable to pay taxes** without the performance of a miracle, by having a fish to bite Peter's hook and give up a coin. (Matt. 17:27)

2. ¹He had no fine auto to ride in, ²no private jet, ³no mansion. *He didn't have 1000's of supporters like many television preachers do today, who preach prosperity.*

D. **He was impoverished when it came to companionship.**

1. He was unable to share His thoughts or actions with His disciples. **This was one reason for His praying often to the Father.**

2. He agonized alone in the garden of Gethsemane until *"His sweat became as great drops of blood,"* **while His disciples slept!** (Luke 22:44)

a. **Does He agonize over the harvest today, while the Church sleeps?**

3. He was alone when He was rushed from one unjust trial to another.

4. His disciples fled and Peter cursed and swore that he didn't know Him, **as he warmed himself by the fire of the Roman soldiers, that would crucify Jesus.**

4. He was alone on the cross when He cried, *"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matt. 27:46).

E. **Why did the Son of God choose to become poor?**

1. Paul gives the answer in clear, unmistakable language in our text.

2 Cor. 8:9 *"He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich!"*

2. Laying it aside, not losing it!

3. He didn't become poor because of purchasing our salvation with His material wealth.

4. "Through His poverty" = It was a matter of identification: **Us with Him and He with us.**

IV. "THAT YE (WE) MIGHT BE RICH"

A. Paul, where is your wealth? You spoke of your needs in several of your letters to the Churches.

1. This richness *wasn't material wealth.* **There is a greater wealth than material wealth!** Quote Phillip. 3:7-8

2. "That we might be rich (**not made rich**)" means that we **might see the measure of His grace, and be introduced to the riches of that grace and of Heaven,** and have access to them through Him. "BE RICH" = **Not own it, yet rich!!**

J. Wilbur Chapman, a pastor, experienced a great sorrow that nearly shook his faith. It also happened at a time when his finances were almost depleted; just when it was necessary for him to take a long trip to the western U.S.

An **elder of his church**, who was *a wealthy banker*, came to his home to offer a word of comfort and encouragement. As he left, he slipped a piece of paper into the pastor's hand. Chapman looked at it and was surprised to find that it was a check made out to him and signed by this rich friend. **But the figures to indicate the amount of the gift were missing.** "Did you mean to give me a signed blank check?" he asked. "Yes," said the man. "I didn't know how much you would need **and I wanted to be sure you would have enough.**"

Later Chapman commented, "While I never had to use the check, it gave me a secure feeling to know that thousands of dollars were literally at my disposal."

B. God too has given us a signed blank check in Phillipians 4:19 to provide for every genuine need that arises in our lives.

Phil. 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." **He wants us to have enough too! Speaking of riches, listen to the words of Paul in the following scriptures:**

Rom. 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out."

Eph. 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

1. He **emptied Himself of His glory** in order "**that we might be filled with all the fulness of God.**" (Eph. 3:19).

2. He **laid aside His glory temporarily** in order *that we might enter into His eternal glory* that was set before Him before the foundation of the world. (Luke 24:36; Heb. 12:2).

3. He **gave up all** in order *that we might receive all: all that God has for us.*
Eph. 3:19 "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath entered in the heart of man what God has prepared for them that love Him." **We're heirs and joint heirs with Jesus!!**

B. He **became friendless in this world**, that He might **show Himself a friend to sinners.** (Luke 7:34) *And be a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

1. He **walked the lonely path up Calvary to die**, in order that we might **find the pathway of eternal life, and never walk alone.**

2. He was willing that all men should ***forsake Him*** **that we might have the fellowship of God** and **never be forsaken.**

C. He ***walked up Golgotha's gruesome hill*** in order **that we might walk down the glorious streets of gold in the New Jerusalem.**

1. He **wore a crown of thorns** in order *that we might wear a crown of life and have a crown of glory, and righteousness.*

2. ***He wore a purple robe*** in order **that we might be clothed with a spotless robe of righteousness, and fine white linen** (Rev. 19:7).

D. He **suffered for us** *that we might rule and reign with Him.*

1. He **entered into death** *that we might enter into eternal life.*

2. He was **laid in the grave** *that we might be resurrected from it.*

3. **He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**

V. **CONCLUSION:** The **deepest meaning** of the **amazing demonstration** of His grace is **summed up** in Paul's words "*for our sakes.*"

A. ***This is the secret of His passion and death.***

1. It was "*for our sakes*" that He suffered and died. ***There was no other way! God did not have a plan "B".***

2. God would have us to ever rejoice in the amazing expression of His love toward us through Christ, in **providing so great redemption, and in bringing us into such a rich inheritance!!**

3. How shall one possibly hope to escape if they neglect so great salvation? Have you been neglecting your's?

B. ***Won't you come to Him and experience the riches of His grace, if you haven't already.***

4. The grace of our Lord can save and deliver you today! Don't wait any longer! Tonight or tomorrow may be too late!

A London businessman owned some warehouse property which he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, / and strewn trash all over the place.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he was careful to say that he would replace the broken windows, / bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and / clean out the garbage. The buyer said, "*Forget about the repairs. When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site.*"

That's God's message to us! Compared with the renovation that God has in mind, our efforts to improve our lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse slated for the wrecking ball.

B. ***When we become God's, the old life is over! He makes all things new!*** All He wants is the site and the permission to build.

1. All we have to do is give Him the "*site*" and He will do the necessary building OR **rebuilding**, (*if you're a backslider*). All we have to do is allow Him to make of us that which He paid the price for, in order to be able do so.

I read the story of a Christian worker, who was once used of God, but unfortunately at an evil hour backslid. This man fell and was serving a 7 year prison sentence in a penal institution. Through an encounter with a godly pastor that visited him, He was restored and ***led to know the recovering power of the precious blood of Christ.***

On the fly leaf of his Bible he wrote: "***The soul that comes to Jesus through failure, shame, or pain, by His wondrous love and mercy may soar as high again.***"

2. There is recovering grace for you if you have been overtaken by evil, and backslid on Jesus.

3. Come to Him and experience the restoring grace of our Lord and be reinstated as an heir of His riches for all eternity.

2 Cor. 6:1-2 “*We (I) then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured (come to help) thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*”

4. If you have already accepted Him, then come and humbly bow before Him in adoration and thanksgiving for His truly amazing grace.