

The Unsearchable Riches In Christ

May 18, 2025

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. This week's message is titled, "The Unsearchable Riches in Christ." The scripture reading is Ephesians 1, 1 to 9. Thank you to Rhonda, Glynnis, Hannah, Okezi, Gianna, Carmen, Eli, and Don for being part of the service.

Happy birthday this week to Dianne, Paul, Stephen, Seth, and Barbara, and happy anniversary to Stephen and Jenny.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:1-9

I will be reading from Ephesians chapter one, verses one to nine.

It says, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God, to God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus, grace and peace to you from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for spiritual blessings in Christ.

Praise be to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ, for he who chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the one he loves. In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.

Sermon

Can we show our appreciation to these wonderful singers today?

(Applause)

She was an embittered woman, Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England. Her health was broken, and her disability had hardened her. She said, if God loved me, and she muttered, he would not have treated me this way. Hoping to help her was a minister who lived closely by. And as the minister was there for dinner, she lost her temper and railed against God and family in a violent outburst.

Her embarrassed family left the room, and left the room. Across the table was the man who was there and wanted to chat. He said, you're tired. You're tired of yourself. You're holding your hate and anger, because you have nothing else in this world to cling to. Consequently, you have become sour, bitter, and resentful. And Charlotte then asks, so what's the cure? He says, the cure is the faith that you're trying to despise. And as they talked, Charlotte softened.

If I wanted to be a Christian and share the peace and joy that you possess, she finally asked, what would I do? You would give yourself to God just as you are now, even with your fightings, fears, hates, loves, pride, and shame. I would come to God just as I am. Is that correct? And she did.

Charlotte did, and her heart changed forever. As time passed, she found and claimed in John 6 and verse 37 that no one who comes to me, I will by no means cast out. Several years later, with fundraising for school for children, Charlotte wrote a poem and was printed in a leaflet across England underneath Charlotte's poem, which became one of the most familiar hymns in history. Although we haven't sung it in a long time, and you'll know it,

Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee, oh lamb of God, I come, I come.

The unsearchable riches in Christ, even going through a lot of troubles and a lot of difficulties as the years have passed. So I just want to share a couple of thoughts talking about the riches that we have in Christ Jesus.

Gentlemen, by the name of A.T. Pearson back in 1911 was a powerful preacher, an educator, a missionary, a statesman, and once tried to preach on God's blessings as described in Ephesians, which is what I'm trying to do today. A section of scripture that continually talks about our unsearchable wealth and riches in Christ. The unsearchable riches means it cannot really be explored. You not only can't count or measure them, but you can form no estimate of them, but you never can get to the end of this investigation. There is a boundless continent, a world, a universe of riches that still lies before us. And when we have carried our search to the limits of possibility, I feel as though I had a theme about which no person ought to speak. An archangel's tongue could not do justice to it. Pearson nevertheless tried to point out the truths about believers and spiritual wealth as described in Ephesians and other New Testament books. And it finally says these words. After hearing it, he said, I sank back exhausted in the vain attempt to set before this congregation the greatest mystery of grace that I ever grappled with. I cannot remember in 30 years of gospel preaching ever to have been confronted with a theme that more baffled every outreach of thought and can every possibility of utterance than the theme that I have attempted. In other words, God's riches are beyond our understanding.

So just a couple of scriptures I will share with you today. The sermon basically is done. But there's more to it if we want to add to it. It's the blessings of both Jew and Gentile and everyone uniting in Christ. Remember, and Paul writes this, remember that formally you who are Gentiles by birth and called the uncircumcised, remember that time you were separate from Christ. Do you remember when you were excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners of the promise without hope and without God in this world? But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of the hostility by abolishing in his flesh what Jesus did, the law with his commandments and regulations. Jesus, who has given himself to us and continually lives in us. He's not just a person of history. He lives within us. And maybe we need to talk to him more than we do.

You see, his purpose was to create everyone to come together in one so that we're not foreigners. But we are fellow citizens of God's people. We are members of God's household. We're built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets with Christ Jesus himself. Because he is the chief cornerstone. In him-- and I love this-- in him, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And we're part of it. How wonderful is that?

And then in chapter 3, it says, it was God's intent that now, listen, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to everyone, the rulers, the authorities, in the heavenly realms even, according to his eternal purpose, which he accomplished in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And then he says, in him, through faith in him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

One day, one day, that will be us standing in front of Jesus. Standing in front of God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, will be part of that heavenly part of all people, people whom we've loved. But we know in our hearts are still alive. Those who have passed away years and years ago, and yet they live in us every day. God has given us himself.

And through him in faith, we have freedom and the confidence of the word of the Lord. And then he says this, now to him, her, who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to his power, that is at work within-- anybody know what that next word is? Us. Us. See, it's not just a 2,000-year-old story. It is our reality. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, all working in us. And our loved ones that we will see again, the precious promises of God. So he says, to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to his power that's at work within us, be him glory in the church and Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and forever. And then he says, amen, because you have to.

And then the Apostle Paul, often in prison, and yet he says to all of us, to Jesus be glory. To Jesus be glory in the church. We're in the church. We are the church. So today, for us, Jesus is our glory in the church throughout generations. How long? Forever and forever.

And then in chapter 4, he says, in spite of difficulties and being a prisoner for his faith, he says, make every effort to keep the unity of the Holy Spirit through the bond of peace. Be a peacemaker. And he continues, there's one body, one spirit, just as you were called when you were called. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father who is above all, through all, and in all. There's this connection that can't be broken because Christ lives inside us, who has built us up in truth, giving us holiness. Because of that, let's never give the devil a foothold. Never. Never. But be kind. Be compassionate, just as Christ forgives us of our sins.

And then the apostle talks about their past and says, for you were once in darkness-- maybe some of us can remember that-- but you're light in the world. Live as children of light, consisting of goodness, righteousness, and find out what pleases the Lord. Turn away from darkness and make the most out of every opportunity. And you know, every day there is an opportunity. Somewhere. Someone needs a hug. Someone needs encouragement. Someone needs to pray with someone else. It's for all of us, all the time. Be filled with God's Holy Spirit. Always give thanks to God for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be strong so that you can take your stand, put on the full armor of God, and stand with this belt of truth around our waist. All of this comes to us from Jesus.

Just a brief message today, and let me conclude with these words. Take the helmet of salvation. Take the sword of the Holy Spirit. Keep on praying for everyone. May we be strong in our faith. And then these words.

Peace to my brothers and sisters, and love with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and His undying love for each of us. What a savior. Amen.

Contact & Copyright

Thanks for watching or listening. The Beamsville Church of Christ meets at 4900 John Street, Beamsville, Ontario.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version© NIV© Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc. TM Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scriptures marked NKJV taken from the New King James Version©. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

You can learn more about the congregation on our Facebook page or at beamsvillechurchofchrist.ca.