

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 20, 2009

“Our Riches Came at Christ’s Expense”
2 Corinthians 8:9

Grace can be defined by an acronym:
God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.

Paul frames the reality of what he has just told the Corinthians, about knowing the grace of Christ, by pointing them to Christ’s incarnation and to truths associated with it.

So, what truths associated with the incarnation of Christ does Paul highlight in 2 Corinthians 8:9?

Christ, before His incarnation, was rich.

Paul’s reference to Christ being rich in 2 Corinthians 8:9 was not a reference to His economic status but rather to the glory that He shared with His Father prior to His incarnation (Revelation 4-5).

Christ’s incarnation, that He willingly chose to embrace, brought Him to poverty.

Christ’s poverty did not end with His glory being veiled in human flesh. It extended to Him becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross, which was His Father’s will for Him (Philippians 2:8).

Crucifixion was developed by the Persians and perfected by the Romans, and from a physical standpoint was the most cruel and painful death that man had ever devised.

Whatever Christ suffered physically is nothing compared to what He suffered spiritually while on the cross (Mark 15:33-34).

When Christ cried out to His Father, “Why has Thou forsaken Me,” He, not in respect to His deity but in respect to His humanness, had experienced spiritual death.

Christ’s incarnation, and deep poverty He experienced through it, has made it possible for us through faith in Christ to become rich.

Those who exercise faith in Christ become rich because they, in receiving the gift of eternal life, come into a personal relationship with God the Father and God the Son and will share their glory (John 17; Romans 8:18-19).

May God give us the grace to understand His great love for us, and may our growing

appreciation of that love continue to drive us into His presence so that we might be transformed.

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