

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 12-14-14 PM NOTES
"THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST"
2 CORINTHIANS 8:9
Non-Series Message

I. The Riches of Christ (v. 9a)

John 1:1 (NKJV) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

A. He Was Rich in His Person

Colossians 2:9 (ESV) "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

Isaiah 9:6b (NKJV) "...Mighty God..."

B. He Was Rich in His Position

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV) "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

Colossians 1:18b (NKJV) "...that in all things He may have the preeminence."

John 17:5 (NKJV) "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

C. He Was Rich in His Power

John 1:3 (NKJV) "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV) "16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

D. He Was Rich in His Possessions

Psalms 24:1 (NKJV) "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

Romans 11:36 (NKJV) "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

II. The Poverty of Christ (v. 9b)

A. He Became Poor in His Person

Philippians 2:6-8 (NASB) "6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Hebrews 2:7a (NKJV) "You have made him a little lower than the angels..."

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV) "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."

B. He Became Poor in His Position

C. He Became Poor in His Power

John 5:19 (HCSB) “I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way.”

John 14:10 (NKJV) “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”

D. He Became Poor in His Possessions

John 7:53-8:1 (NKJV) “⁵³And everyone went to his *own* house. ¹But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.”

Matthew 8:20 (NKJV) “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”

John 10:10a (NKJV) “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.”

III. Our Riches in Christ (v. 9c)

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Wealth is not determined by money or material goods; wealth (true riches) is determined by what you have that money can't buy and death can't take away.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.”

A. We Are Made Rich in Our Person

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Peter 1:4a (NKJV) “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...”

B. We Are Made Rich in Our Position

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

C. We Are Made Rich in Our Power

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Colossians 1:11 (NKJV) “strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”

D. We Are Made Rich in Our Possessions

Ephesians 1:11a (NKJV) “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance...”

1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV) “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

1 Corinthians 1:4-5 (HCSB) “⁴I always thank my God for you because of God's grace given to you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that by Him you were made rich in everything—in all speaking and all knowledge?”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 12-14-14 PM
“THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST”
2 CORINTHIANS 8:9
Non-Series Message

This verse is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. It describes the amazing grace of our Lord perhaps more than any other single verse in the entire Bible. If you want to know what grace looks like, look at 2 Corinthians 8:9! The word “grace” initially meant for a superior to stoop down to give a gift to an inferior. That is exactly what is being described in this amazing verse. 2 Corinthians 8:9 focuses on the greatest “stoop” man or heaven has ever seen. In looking at this grace we see what Christmas is really all about. We will only skim the surface of this doctrinal gold mine tonight.

I. The Riches of Christ (V9a)

That little phrase “though He was rich” points us to the pre-existence of Christ. Jesus Christ did not have his beginning when the virgin Mary conceived Him supernaturally or when He was born in Bethlehem’s stable. He has no beginning. He was in existence before the whole time dimension was created. **John 1:1 (NKJV)** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” When time began, He could be spoken of in the past tense; He was already in existence. Before that first Christmas, Christ Jesus was not only existent; He was exalted in wealth and riches in at least four areas.

A. He Was Rich in His Person

Make no mistake about it; the Lord Jesus Christ was God from all eternity past. He was not a type of God or similar to God; He was and is fully God. Look back at John 1:1. Jesus, the Word of God “was God”. He was as rich in His person as God the Father and God the Spirit. He was and is the 2nd person of the Godhead, the Trinity – One God in three persons. You cannot be richer in your person than being almighty God. **Colossians 2:9 (ESV)** says, “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”. When the prophet Isaiah prophesied of the coming of Christ 700 years before His birth, he called Him in **Isaiah 9:6b (NKJV)** “...Mighty God...” That infant in the manger was the infinite God in flesh. From the time the angels were created, He was worshipped. There was a perfect incomparable deep love between the Father and the Son. He was rich in His person.

B. He Was Rich in His Position

The Lord Jesus was described in **Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)** as “... the firstborn over all creation.” The word “firstborn” here has no reference whatsoever to physical birth order. It is a word that refers to a person’s rank. It means the highest rank above all other ranks. Jesus is over all. No one has a higher rank than Him. That is why we read in **Colossians 1:18b (NKJV)** “...that in all things He may have the preeminence.” On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ was praying to the Father, and He said in **John 17:5 (NKJV)** “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” His glory was equal to the glory of God the Father. How’s that for being rich in one’s person? Angels bowed before Him in worship. He was the darling of heaven!

He was rich in His person and rich in His position.

C. He Was Rich in His Power

Only God’s power deserves to have an “omni” as a prefix. Jesus Christ was omnipotent or powerful. His power was without limit. **John 1:3 (NKJV)** says of Jesus “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” He created all that is – because He is omnipotent. **Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV)** “¹⁶ For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” Not only did He create everything that is created, He holds everything together. The word translated “consist” means to glue. It is translated “hold together” in the ESV. Don’t just pass quickly over that. Our earth is large, but if the sun was hollowed out, 1.3 million earths would fit inside. There is one star that is larger than the earth’s orbit around the sun! That baby in the manger created all that and holds all the planets in their orbit. It is only by His power that the universe doesn’t fly apart.

D. He Was Rich in His Possessions

The whole universe was His. Anything that He put His hand on, He could truly say “Mine!” **Psalms 24:1 (NKJV)** “The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” **Romans 11:36 (NKJV)** says, “For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” As God, He is self contained and has no needs, no shortages, no wants. If there was anything He lacked, He could simply create it.

II. The Poverty of Christ (V9b)

The Christmas carol, *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* by Emily Elliot speaks of the poverty of Christ:

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.*

Here is where we see the amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated “poor” speaks of abject, extreme poverty. I can imagine the angels as they must have been amazed and maybe a little perplexed as they saw Him leave the wealth of heaven for the poverty of the world. Let's examine the ways that Jesus became poor.

A. He Became Poor in His Person

The passage that best describes this wealthy one becoming poor is **Philippians 2:6-8 (NASB)** “⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” This is a description of the incarnation – when God the Son took on human flesh. This one of the most astounding passages in Scripture. See how radical this is. The eternal God becomes a servant, laying aside the free use of His divine prerogatives. He became for a time lower than the angels in **Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)** “⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” The eternal God the Son became a servant. Listen carefully; at the incarnation when God the Son came, born of a virgin, He did not cease being God, but took on the limitation of human flesh. Many years ago an inscription was found that was chiseled into marble. It said: “I am what I was – God. I was not what I am – man. I am now called both God and man.” That is exactly what happened at His incarnation when He who was rich for our sakes became poor. Charles Wesley in 1739 put it this way in the second verse of my favorite Christmas carol:

*Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.*

When the first astronaut walked on the moon, the President of the United States praised this wonder of modern science. He said, “The planting of human feet on the moon is the greatest moment in human history.” Billy Graham heard that and corrected the president this way. He said, “With all due respect, the greatest moment in human history was not when man set foot on the moon, but when the infinite and eternal God set foot on the earth in Jesus of Nazareth.” He was right. This is grace! This is amazing grace! If He had not become man, He could not have died for our sin.

B. He Became Poor in His Position

He was no longer the center of worship in Heaven; now he is a peasant, a citizen of a nation enslaved by the Roman Empire. The sovereign has taken on flesh and become a slave. The one who was worshipped by the angels is born a peasant woman in a smelly stable; the one who created the world then works in a carpenter's shop. This incarnation of God the Son has correctly been called, “The greatest stoop”. God the Son stooped down and took on human flesh.

C. He Became Poor in His Power

This one may surprise you. You may say, “But wait! Didn’t He perform miracles, heal the sick, and raise the dead?” Yes, but remember that he emptied Himself of the arbitrary use of the attributes of Deity when He took on flesh. All of the miracles were done in the power of the Father through the Holy Spirit. **John 5:19 (HCSB)** “Then Jesus replied, ‘I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way.’” **John 14:10b (NKJV)** “...the Father who dwells in Me does the works.” Remember that Jesus sought the Father in choosing His disciples (He prayed all night). He prayed to the Father before Lazarus was raised from the dead. Having laid down the free use of His divine prerogatives, He trusted the Father to guide, enable and empower Him. Jesus, who had all power, laid down His power and trusted in the Father to give Him the power to do all that the Father desired.

D. He Became Poor in His Possessions

Because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, He was willing to leave behind the indescribable riches of Heaven and take on flesh in a fallen world where He possessed nothing. Jesus was born in a smelly stable; He had to borrow Peter’s boat for a pulpit; He had to have a fish caught with a coin in its mouth to pay the temple tax. We read in **John 7:53-8:1 (NKJV)** “⁵³ And everyone went to his *own* house. ¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.” He had no home to go to. He told His disciples in **Matthew 8:20 (NKJV)** “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” When He died, He was buried in a borrowed tomb.

Jesus did not live in poverty to teach us that poverty comes with godliness. Nor does the Bible teach that material wealth is the right of every Christian if only they will have enough faith. Jesus came to be our substitute and sin always brings poverty of one kind or another. The devil is called in **John 10:10a (NKJV)** “The thief [that] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” Jesus lived in material poverty identifying with all who are in sin and struggling with any kind of poverty, material, spiritual, relational – all poverty.

Oh, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in what He gave up to come and to save us.

III. Our Riches in Christ (V9c)

Before we come to Christ, we are in spiritual poverty. In the first of the Beattitudes, Jesus said that we are blessed when we recognize our spiritual poverty. **Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)** “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, those who are poor in Spirit can find true riches because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who left heaven to come and save us on an old rugged cross. When we come to Him in repentance and faith, we who were living in the poverty of sin become rich in Him – certainly not materially rich, but rich in all the areas He became poor in. **Wealth is not determined by money or material goods; wealth (true riches) is determined by what you have that money can’t buy and death can’t take away.** The riches that Jesus gives are summarized in **Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)** “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ”. Notice all of the ways that we have been made rich.

A. We Are Made Rich in Our Person

When you experience the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, you exchange your condemnation for His righteousness. You now personally stand righteous before a holy God in the perfect righteousness of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” We are a new person (**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)** “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”), and we have a new nature (**2 Peter 1:4a (NKJV)** “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...”).

B. We Are Made Rich in Our Position

When we experience the saving grace of our Lord, we have a new position. We are now identified with Christ – “in Christ”. In Christ you are a new person with a new past (crucified with Christ) and a new present here on earth (Christ living in you and through you – **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)** “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”) and then a new future in heaven with Him.

We could go on and on as to our new position. We are now adopted into God's family, the objects of His special family love. In this new position, the authority of Satan and sin over our life is now broken. Satan only had authority over the old man in Adam and now that old man is crucified with Christ and we are free from sin's slavery. We could continue on but hopefully you're getting the picture.

C. We Are Made Rich in Our Power

Because Christ emptied Himself and became poor, we are rich in power. Christ has given us His Spirit to indwell us and to fill us. Therefore we can boldly say with **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." According to **Colossians 1:11 (NKJV)** we can be "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy". We now have power to obey, power to endure, and power to overcome.

D. We Are Made Rich in Our Possessions

I am not speaking of material riches or money. I'm talking about being rich in those things that death can't take away and money can't buy. We have an inheritance. **Ephesians 1:11a (NKJV)** "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance..." **1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)** "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you". **1 Corinthians 1:4-5 (HCSB)** "⁴ I always thank my God for you because of God's grace given to you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that by Him you were made rich in everything—in all speaking and all knowledge". We could spend days talking about all of the wealth that we have in Christ. The greatest possession is that we have right now as a present possession Christ's life – eternal life as a present possession and the devil can never take it away.

CONCLUSION

Oh what amazing grace –"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." It's time to possess our possessions and live like who you are.