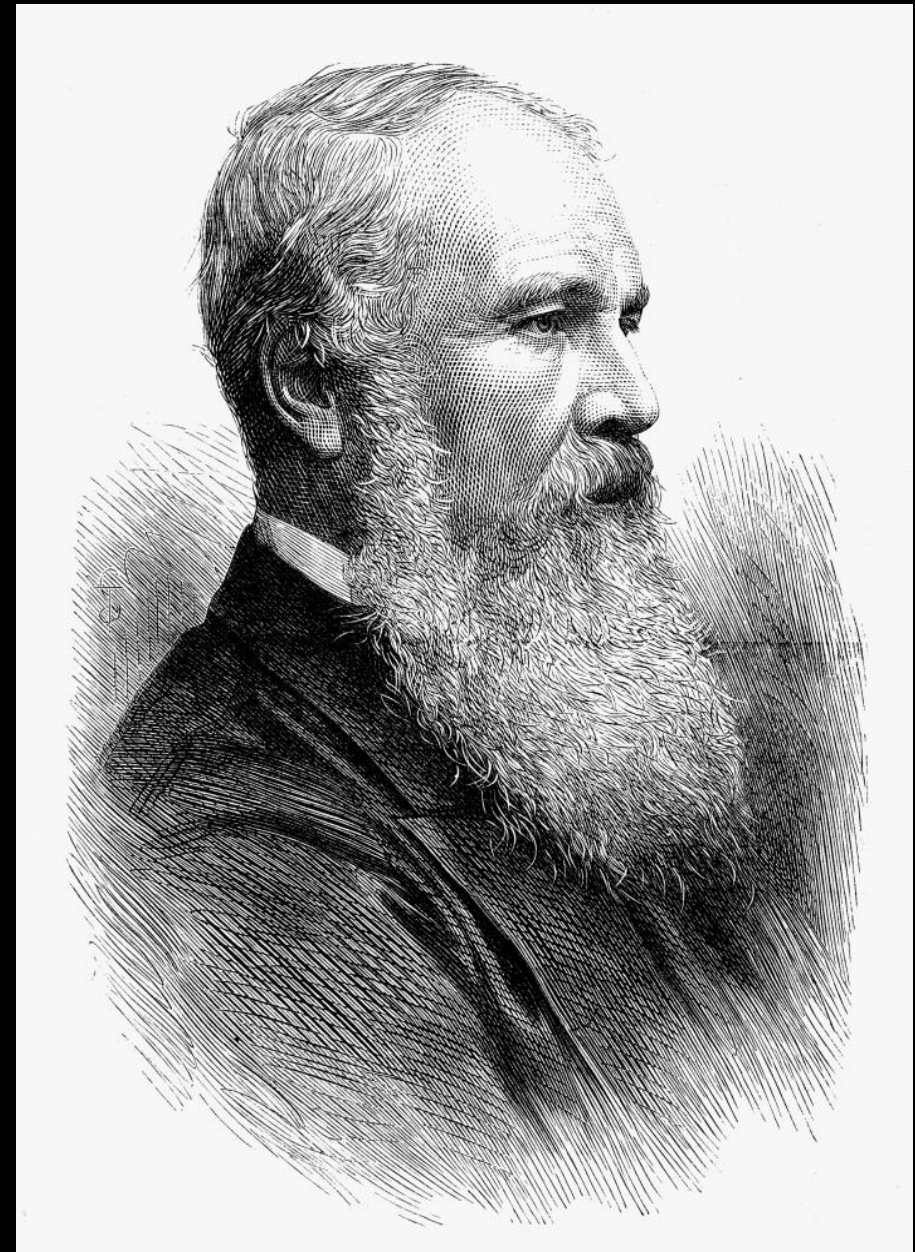


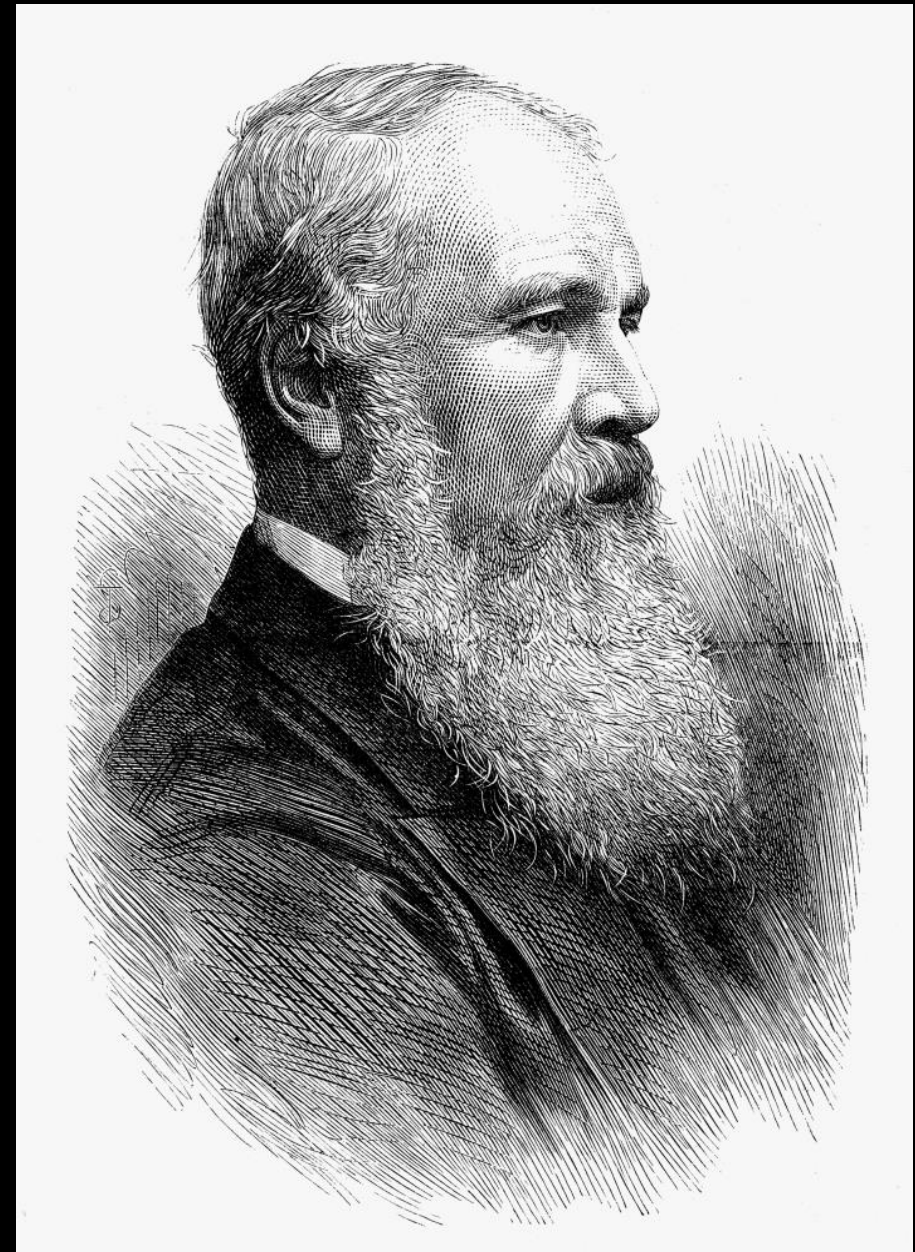
HOLINESS

J.C. Ryle



“Unsearchable riches”

Chapter 18



"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ..."

- Ephesians 3:8 ESV



"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

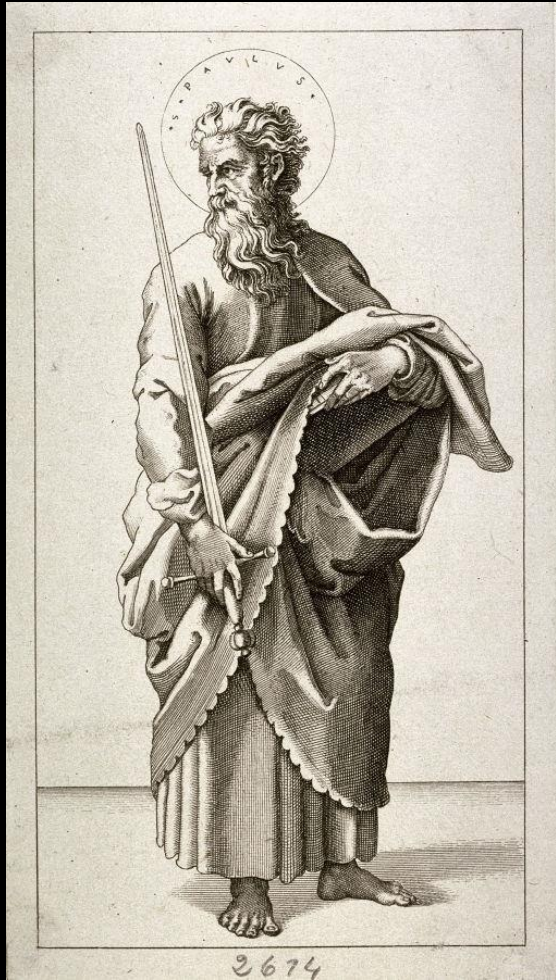
- Ephesians 3:8-10 ESV



"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ..."

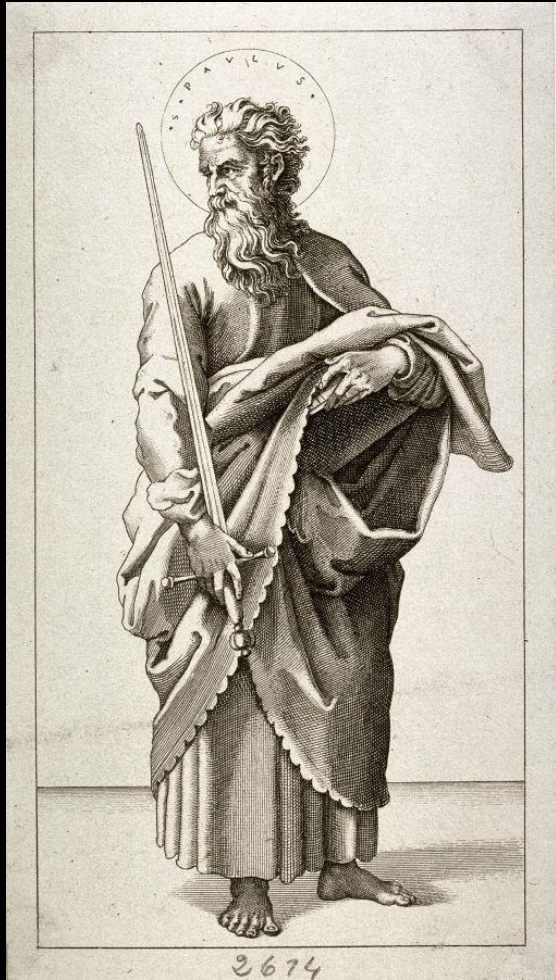
- Ephesians 3:8 ESV





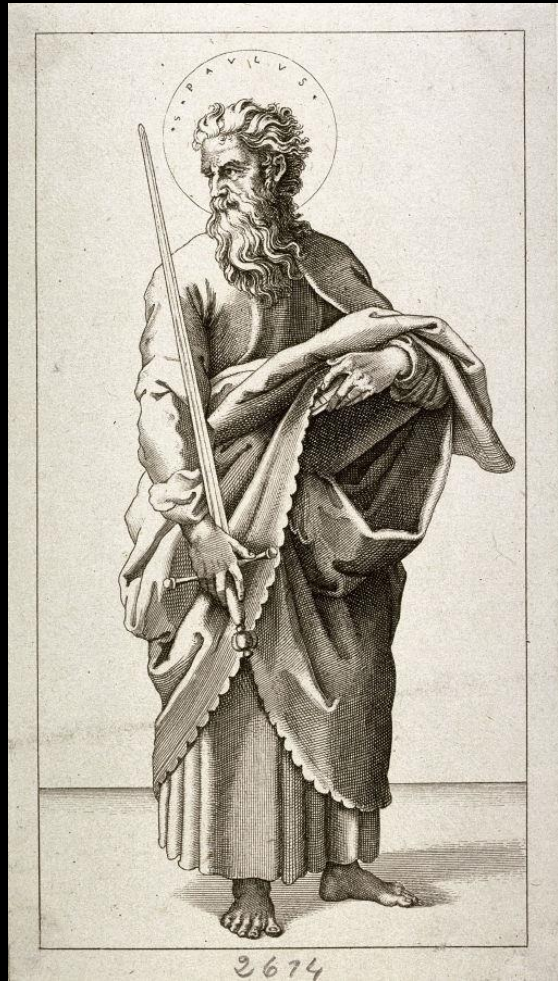
Three things Paul says:

1. Himself
2. His ministerial office
3. The subject of his preaching



1. What Paul says of himself:

What Paul chose not to say...



1. What Paul says of himself:

*"Unto me, who am
less than the least of all
saints."*

“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.”

–Philippians 3: 4-6

*“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as **rubbish** in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...”*

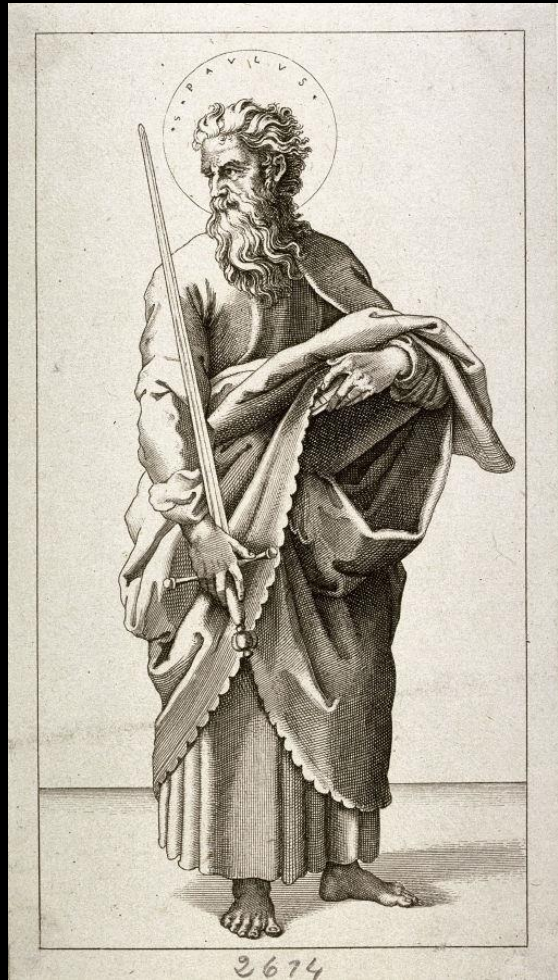
-Philippians 3: 8-9

σκύβαλα *skybalon*

4657 *skýbalon* (from 2965 /kýōn, "dog" and 906 /bállō, "throw") – properly, waste thrown to dogs, like filthy scraps of garbage (table-scraps, dung, muck, sweepings); (figuratively) refuse, what is good-for-nothing except to be discarded (used only in Phil 3:8).

*“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as **rubbish**, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...”*

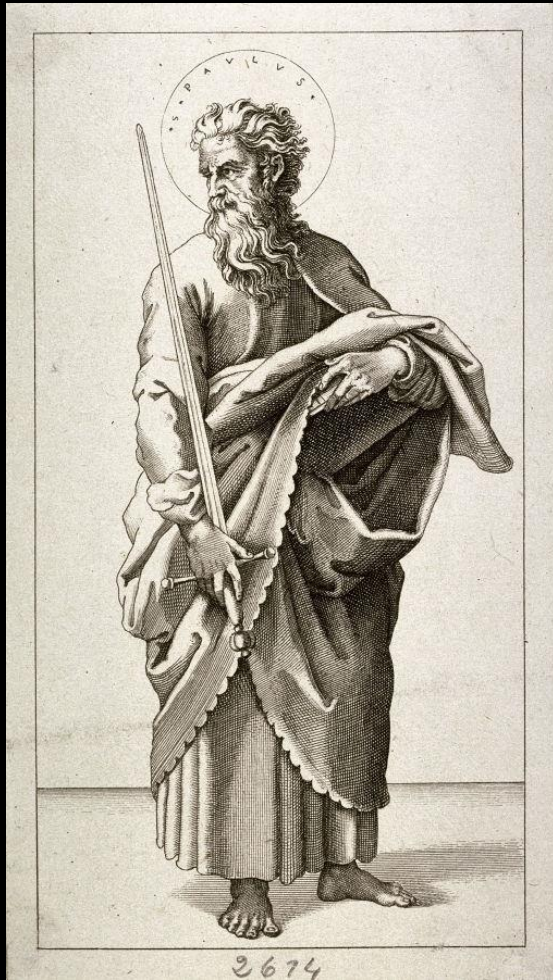
-Philippians 3: 8-9



1. What Paul says of himself:

*"Unto me, who am **less than the least** of all saints."*

1. What Paul says of himself:



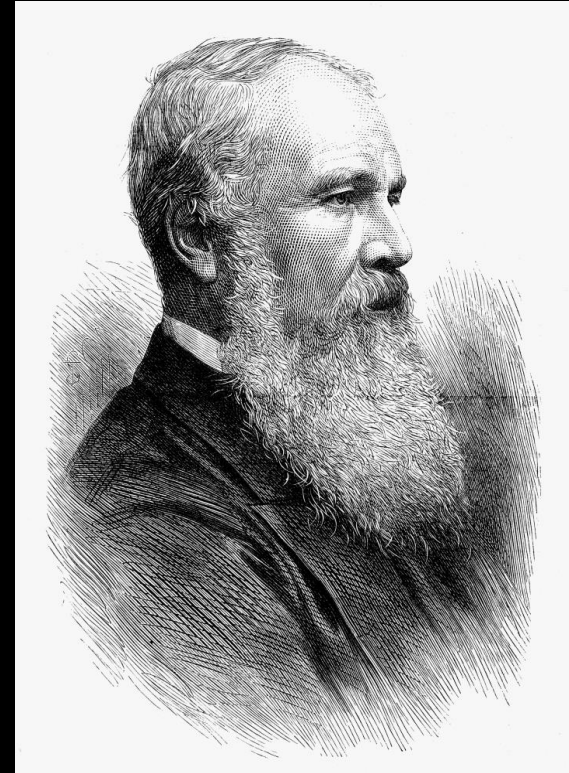
"I have not attained, **nor am I already perfect.** I follow after." - Phil. 3:12

"I am the **least of the apostles** which am not meet to be called an apostle." - I Cor. 15: 9

"I am **chief of sinners.**" - 1 Tim. 1:15

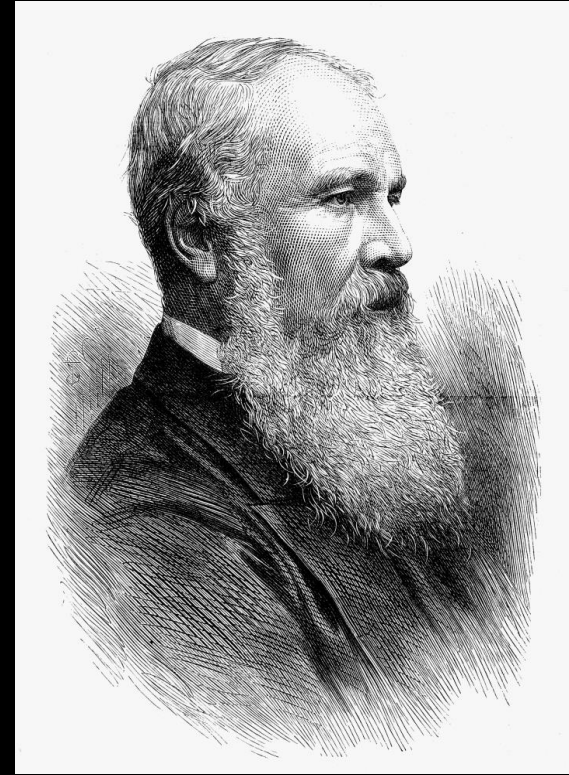
"**Wretched man that I am!** Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" - Rom. 7:24

“The more real grace men have in their hearts, the deeper is their sense of sin. The more light the Holy Spirit pours into their souls, the more do they discern their own infirmities, defilements and darkness. The dead soul feels and sees nothing; with life comes clear vision, a tender conscience and spiritual sensibility.”



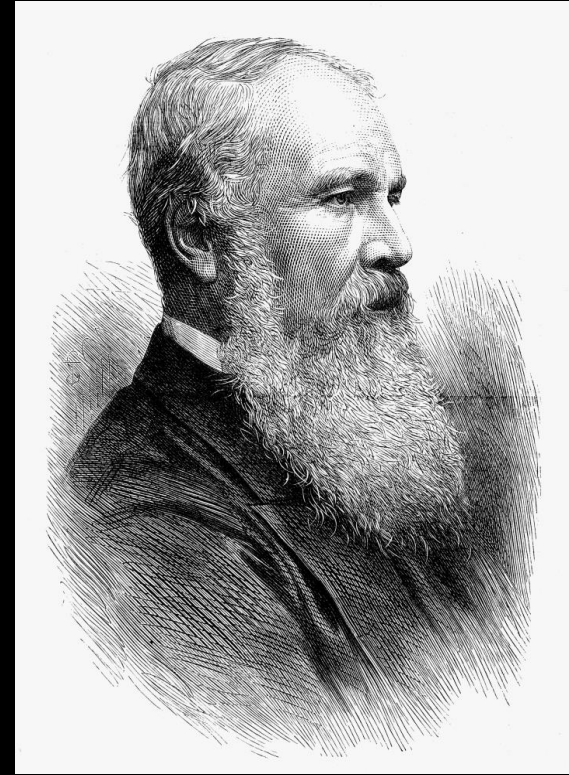
-Ryle, pg.341

“The great saints, in every era of church history, from Paul down to this day, have always been “clothed with humility.” He that desires to be saved, among the readers of this message, let him know this day that the first steps towards heaven are a deep sense of sin and a lowly estimate of ourselves.”



-Ryle, pg.341

“Let him cast away that weak and silly tradition that the beginning of religion is to feel ourselves ‘good.’ Let him rather grasp that grand scriptural principle, that we must begin by feeling ‘bad’ and that, until we really feel ‘bad’ we know nothing of true goodness or saving Christianity.”



-Ryle, pg.341



“You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.”

-Jonathan Edwards

“Of all creatures born into the world none is so dependent as the child of Adam.”

*Let us seek
humility*

“Surely there is no created being on earth or in heaven that ought to be so humble as man. Let us seek humility.”

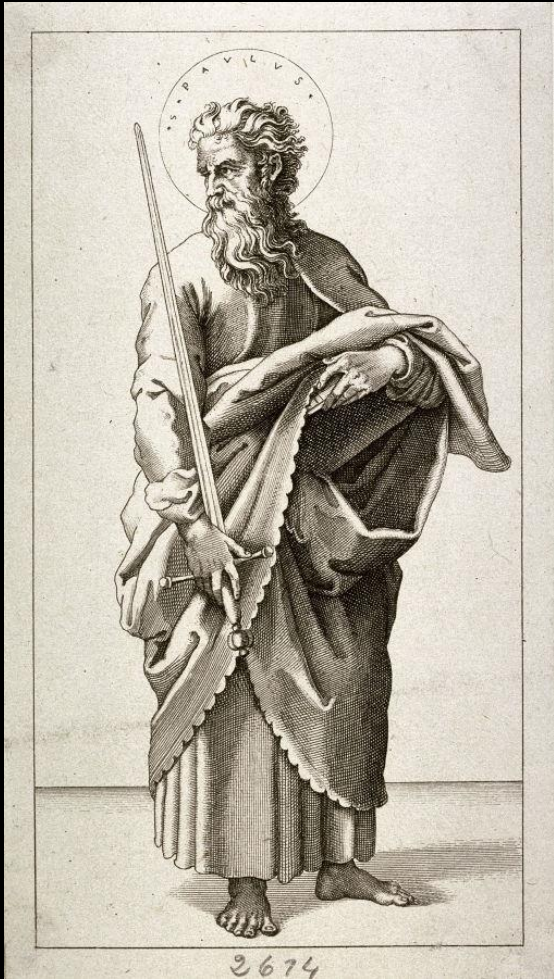
*Let us seek
humility*

“Our matchless Prayer Book, from first to last, puts the humblest language into the mouths of all who use it. The sentences at the beginning of morning and evening prayer, the General Confession, the Litany, the Communion service – all, all are replete with lowly-minded and self-abasing expressions. All, with one harmonious voice, supply Church of England worshipers with clear teaching about our right position in the sight of God.”

*Let us seek
humility*

*“Depend on it, the
nearer men draw to
heaven, the more humble
do they become.”*

2. What Paul says of his Ministerial Office:

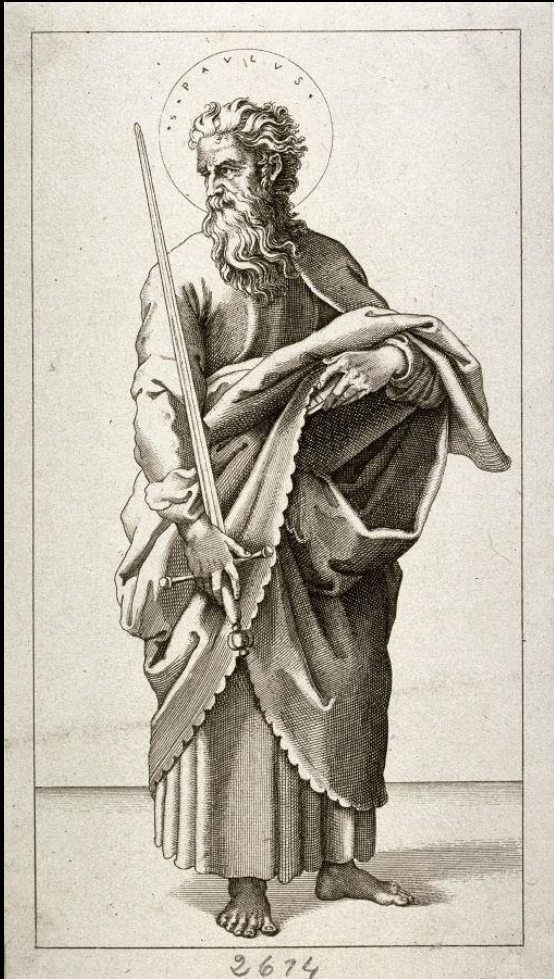


*"Grace is given unto me that I should **preach.**"*

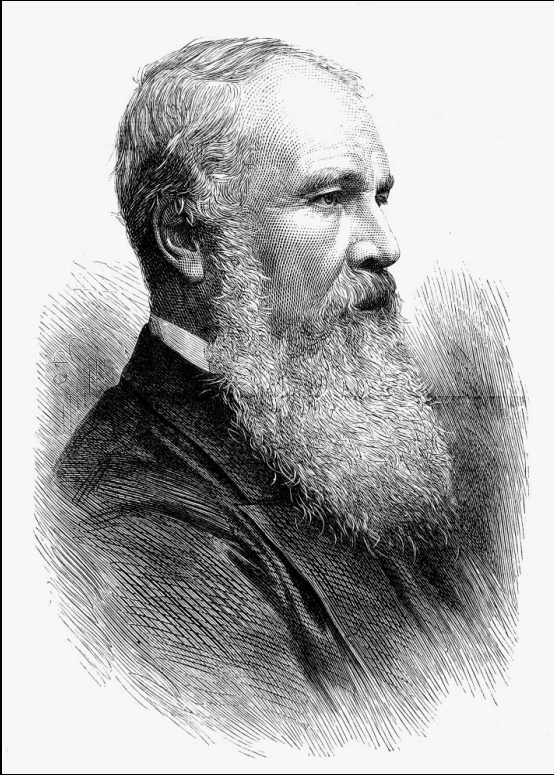
εὐαγγελίζω *euaggelizó*

2097 euaggelízō (from 2095 /eú, "good, well" and angellō, "announce, herald") – properly, proclaim "the good message" (good news). In the NT, 2097 (euaggelízō) refers to sharing the full Gospel of Christ – literally, "gospelizing" that announces the complete message of "the good news" (the Lord's glad tidings).

2. What Paul says of his Ministerial Office:



*"Grace is given unto me that I should **preach.**"*



“The chief business of a minister of the New Testament is to be a preacher an evangelist, God’s ambassador, God’s messenger and the proclaimer of God’s good news to a fallen world.”

-Ryle, pg.343

“Why it is the great duty of ministers to preach Christ to the people?”

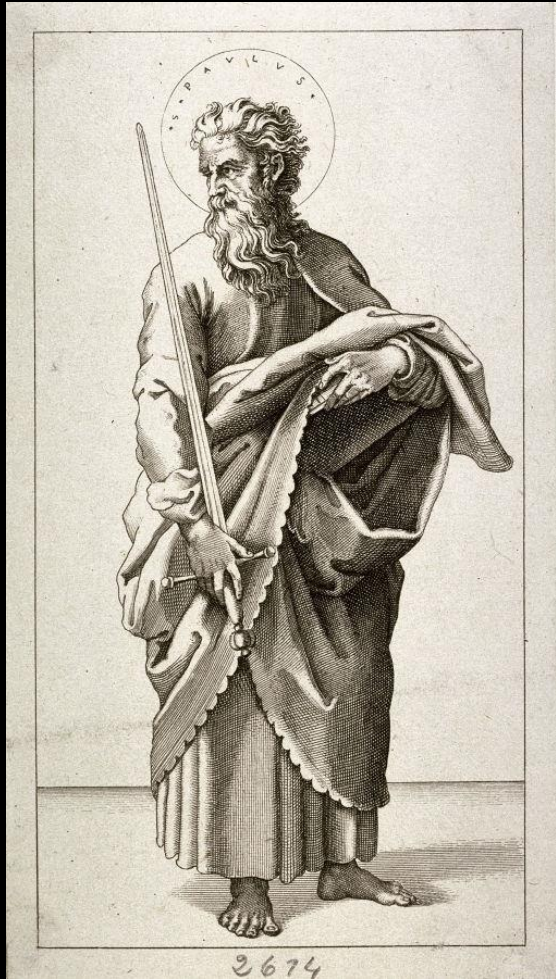
Because this is the only way to save and to win souls to Jesus Christ.



There is no other way of winning and saving souls – but by the preaching of Christ.

You may preach this and that, and a thousand things to the people, and yet never better them, never win them. It is only preaching of Christ, that allures and draws souls to Christ”.

-Thomas Brooks



"Christ sent me not to baptize, but to **preach** the gospel".
-1 Cor. 1:17

"God has manifested His Word through **preaching**"
-Titus 1:3

"I am appointed a **preacher**."
-2 Tim. 1:11

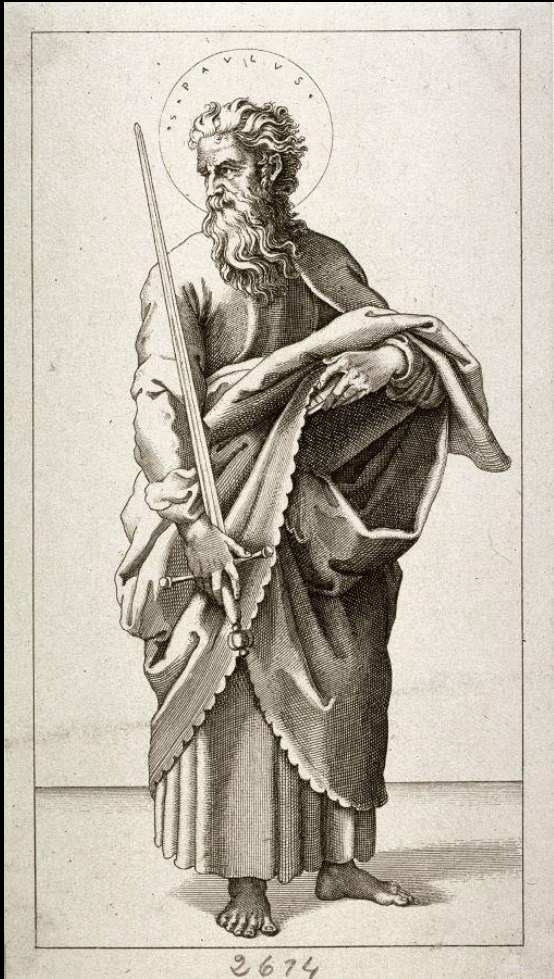
"I am ordained a **preacher**."
-1 Tim. 2:7

"That by me the **preaching** might be fully known,"
- 2 Tim. 4:17

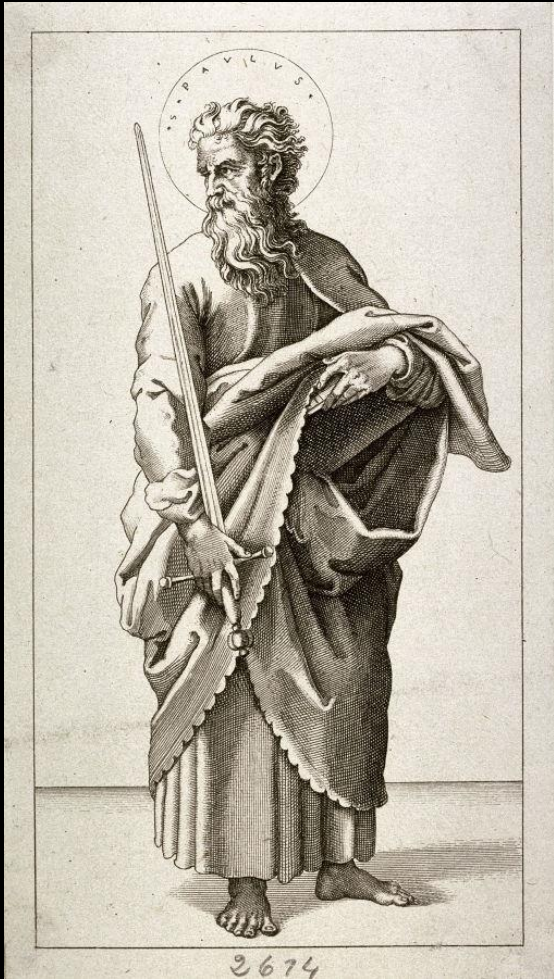
The
ministerial
office is

- A Scriptural Institution
- A most wise and useful provision of God
- An honorable privilege
- Of deep and painful responsibility

3. What Paul says of the great subject of his preaching :



3. What Paul says of the great subject of his preaching



Consider what he is NOT to preach:



*Let us look at this task and calling of the minister, first of all negatively. He is not simply to preach about **current events**.*

*Is it his business to express his view as to what the **Government** should have done last week or what it should not have done?*

*But again, it is not the business of the Preacher to **preach patriotism**.*

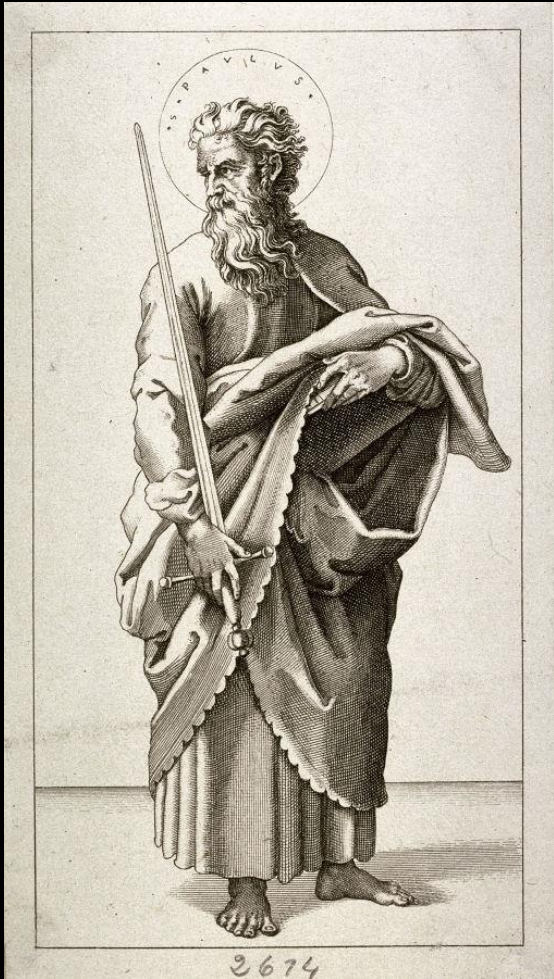


Neither is it the business of preaching simply to preach and to inculcate a **general public morality** or some general ethic.

The business of Christianity is not to produce '**perfect little gentlemen**'. The philosophers can do so and have done so.

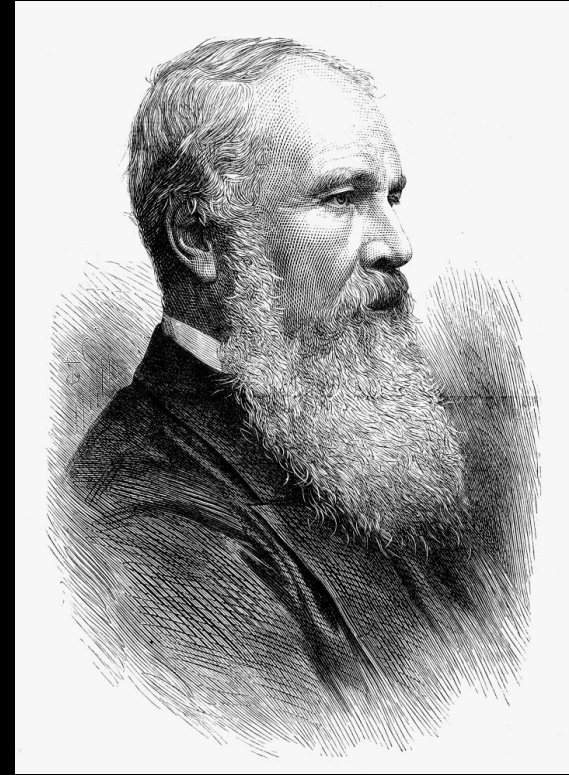
But Paul was called to preach '**the unsearchable riches of Christ**'.

3. What Paul says of the great subject of his preaching

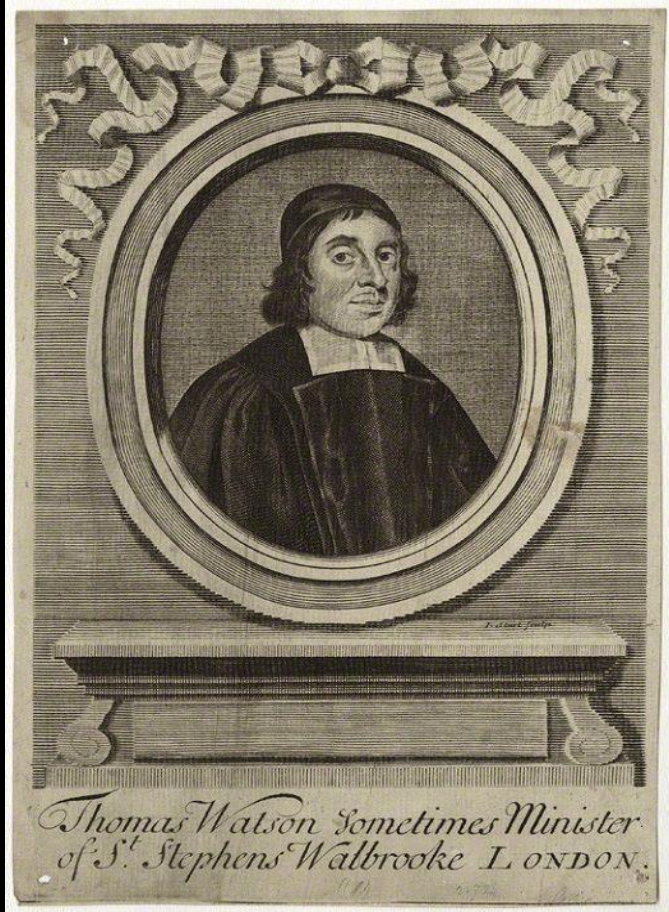


“...preach the unsearchable riches of Christ...”

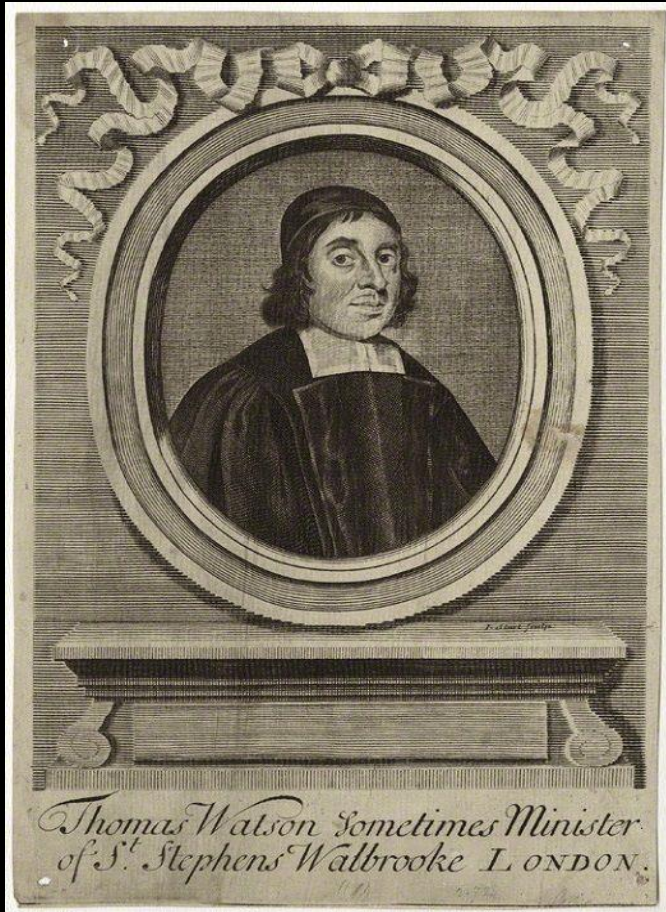
“He always went to the root of the matter, and showed men their great family disease, their desperate state as sinners, and the great Physician needed by a sin-sick world.”



-Ryle, pg.343



“Has God not given us Christ? In Him there are “unsearchable riches” (Eph 3:8). He is such a golden mine of wisdom and grace, that all the saints and angels can never dig to the bottom. As Seneca said to his friend Polybius, “Never complain of your hard fortune as long as Caesar is your friend.” So, I say to you, “Never complain as long as Christ is your friend.” He is a valuable pearl, a sparkling diamond. The infinite luster of His merits makes us shine in God’s eyes.”



“In Him there is both fullness and sweetness. Lift up your thoughts to the highest and stretch them to the heavens. Let them expand to their full height and breadth, yet they will fall infinitely short of those inexhaustible treasures which are locked in Jesus Christ. So, is there not enough here to give the soul contentment? A Christian that lacks necessities, but has Christ, has the “one thing [that] is necessary” (Luke 10:42).

What are
“the
unsearchable
riches” of
Christ?

- The unsearchable riches in Christ’s person
- The work which Christ accomplished for us (on earth)
- The work which Christ at this moment fills, as He lives for us at the right hand of God
- The names and titles which are applied to Christ in the Scriptures
- The characteristic qualities, attributes, dispositions and intentions of Christ’s mind towards man

Finally

- What do you think of yourself?
- What do you think of the ministers of Christ?
- What do you think of Christ himself?