

The True Riches of God I

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{announcements not in transcript—approximately 23-1/2 minutes into message}

What are the true riches of God? We've seen what has happened with all the riches of the world, all of the things devised by lying, cheating, stealing, and by leveraging, and by derivatives. They have finally figured out that if they were able to rescue everything in the world and keep it from collapsing, guess how much money that would take? *\$600-trillion!* There is not that much money in the world and all of that pales into insignificance compared to what God is offering us.

Let's see some important things. We do have to, while we are living in the world, *be wise with our finances!* We do have to be 'wise as serpents and harmless as doves.' We find a real principle that we need to follow in everything we do.

Matthew 6:19: "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust spoil, and where thieves break through and steal; but store up treasures for yourselves in heaven..." (vs 19-20).

You can't send checks to heaven; you can't send money to heaven, so *these are the true riches.* Jesus said, *'If you cannot be trusted with the unrighteous mammon, who is going to trust you with the true riches?'* This is what it is talking about: *the true riches!* We will see what they are today.

Verse 20: "But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust spoils, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (vs 20-21). *He also said in another place 'no one can serve two masters.'* You can't serve mammon and serve God.

While we are to take care of our financial things and, yes, give tithes and offerings and things like that. But the truth is you're never going to buy salvation; *it has to be conversion from the heart,* the true treasure that we are told that we are to purchase from God.

Remember what God told the Laodiceans? Let's see what God told the Laodiceans. If there is any one thing that is true, we're living in a Laodicean era, *and that is with the false riches of this world!*

Revelation 3:15: "I know your works..." *Everyone has works!* The works that really, really, really count are *first* in the mind. People can have a mindset one way and exteriorly appear another way.

Look at the 50-billion dollar rip-off by Bernie Madoff. 'He was such a nice man.' He was kind; he was considerate, but you didn't know what was going on in the mind. So, *the works of the mind are the most important!* The works of the mind are *reflected in your actions because what you think first is what you do!* 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.'

Verse 15: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot." *That is what God wants!*

He does not want a halfhearted effort. He doesn't want nice little stories of wonderful little things about how humans get along and play patsy, patsy with their hands. God has called us:

- to the greatest *riches*
- to the greatest *calling*
- to the greatest *future*

that can ever be and never thought of in the minds of human beings!

Now then, for being *cool*, if you are lukewarm you are neither hot nor cold. What is that? *You're cool!* Isn't that a favorite expression today? When things are good, you say *'that's cool.'* Or if you have really twisted the English language if it is 'good' you say *'it's bad.'* There comes a penalty with it.

- the way that God has created our mind
- the way that God has created us
- the way that God keeps track of things on earth

Everyone everywhere is being judged at all times by the laws God has set in motion! You need to think on that, because that's true!

Verse 16: "So then, because you are lukewarm, and are neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. For you say, 'I am rich and have become wealthy...'" (vs 16-17)

When the stock market crashed in 2009, how many people lost everything? How many people lost 50%? 60%? 70%? That's part of it. What we see with an economic downturn is *because of the sins of the people and the dishonesty of the monetary system that we have!* *It's God's judgment!*

It's also God's judgment against the Anglo-Saxon people for turning their backs on God, *because they were to take the knowledge of God to the world!*

Verse 17: “For you say, ‘I am rich, and have need of nothing’; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked.”

You may see things physically, but you don’t see things spiritually and you don’t see things from God’s way.

Verse 18: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire... [*spiritual gold*] ...so that you may be rich: and white garments so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see. As many as I love...” (vs 18-19)

God is saying that in spite of all this ‘*I love you,*’ but you need to respond to His love. We need to respond to His pleading with us. The best place to start is all admit that we’ve all been Laodiceans from day one. As things get tougher you are going to see that, yes, that is true.

Verse 19: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, **I stand at the door and knock...**” (vs 19-20)—*God’s calling!* The Laodiceans there are two kinds:

1. those who have the Spirit of God are going to be spewed out of the mouth
2. those who have an interest in God, who have thought about God, but who have never really taken any action on it

They are the ones whom Jesus is standing knocking for them to open the door. They have sought things far enough so that now there’s a responsibility to them to respond to God. God is responding to them, so He is knocking.

“...If anyone hears My voice and opens the door...” (v 20). *That means repentance and conversion!*

As we covered in the sermon *The Covenant for Eternal Life*, that includes baptism, which is **your symbolic death!**

“...I will come in to him...” (v 20)—**one of the greatest riches that God gives us!**

Strip away all the physical things; strip away everything that there is and **the greatest riches that God gives us is His Holy Spirit**, which cannot be purchased.

“...and will sup with him, and he with Me...” (v 20). *You will have a relationship with God!* A spiritual relationship that the world cannot see; the world does not understand. It is a relationship:

- through prayer
- through study

- through walking in the way of the Lord
- through living by His commandment

It is called **fellowship!**

Verse 21: “To the one who overcomes I will give *authority* to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (vs 21-22).

It all gets down to our individual choices. A church *cannot save*, being born into a family that is part of a church *does not save*. A church can facilitate salvation **IF they teach the Word of God!**

Only God the Father through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and the Holy Spirit of God can bring salvation! He desires a personal relationship between you and Him!

Sidebar: The Bible was written in a time much like we are facing today: many *false prophets*, many *false christs*, many people saying that *you do not have to keep the commandments of God*; ‘we have grace. As long as we have grace that is fine we don’t need anything else’: that if you have faith and grace you need nothing else. What is faith suppose to do for you? **You must have active faith and you must live it!**

- Does it take any faith at all to **not** keep the commandments of God? *No!*
- Does it *take faith* to keep the commandments of God?
- Does it *take faith* to keep His Sabbath and Holy Days?
- Does it *take faith* to have a direct, personal relationship with Him? *Yes! That takes faith!*

That’s one of the riches of God, because it comes from God!

You can read the faith chapter (Heb. 11). And you read it ‘by faith Enoch...by faith Noah...by faith Abraham,’ *and their faith was always followed by something that they did! They obeyed!*

Remember the parable that Jesus asked the Pharisees, when they wanted to know some things. Jesus said, ‘A man had two sons and he said to his sons go work in my field today and the first one said yes but he didn’t do it. The second one said *no*; but he repented and did it. So, Jesus asked the Pharisees, ‘Which one did the will of the Father.’ They said ‘The one who went and worked in the field.’ Then I think He told them ‘you do likewise.’

Here is the relationship; John wrote this because the Church was disintegrating

- from problems within
- from false prophets

- from trials from Satan the devil persecuting the Church

Jesus wanted every single one to have their mind on what was the most important thing. Just like Jesus told the Laodiceans.

1-John 1:1: “That which was from *the* beginning... [ties in with the John 1:1] ...that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes... [we are to be eyewitnesses of Christ] ...that which we observed for ourselves and our own hands handled...”

They virtually lived with Christ three and a half years, day and night under all circumstances, seeing all the miracles, all the healings, the feeding of the 5,000, the feeding of the 4,000, etc.

“...concerning the Word of life; (and the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us;) that which we have seen, and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for **the fellowship**—indeed, our fellowship—is with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ” (vs 1-3).

Just like any true minister of God, he points them to God, not to himself. He points them to repentance, not to placate.

Verse 4: “These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full.”

He wants us to have this fellowship. The rest of the books of 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John tell us how to do this. {note book: *The Seven General Epistles*} When I began translating in earnest in 1991, we had just finished a whole series going through the Gospel of John. That one ended up with 56 messages, half of them being subtopics like grace and so forth. I was using the *King James* at that time and I would explain to the brethren when you read the *King James* when it is a verb it ends in ‘th’ (i.e. he ‘doeth’ means he *is doing* or *does*) that is a present tense verb. When you have it with the ‘eth’ that is a participle, which Greek has a lot of participles. So I would explain these things as we went along.

Then we got done with that, so I asked the brethren (we had seven at the time), because when times get tough what we decided to do was we needed to keep our noses in the Bible. I asked them ‘Would you like to study another book?’ They replied ‘*Oh yes.*’ I said ‘How about if we start with the General Epistles and then I did a study translation of James, 1st & 2nd Peter, and 1st, 2nd & 3rd John and Jude.’ We ended up with a book and 79 messages that goes through *The Seven General Epistles*. We went through word-by-word through everything in the General Epistles; and likewise,

have done with Romans, Galatians and Hebrews. We want to have online the most complete set of in-depth Bible studies for people whom God is working with so they will see that the Truth of the Bible stands at all times, from Genesis to Revelation. There is a unity of Scripture and a unity of what God wants. The main thing that we have in the New Testament, and ***one of the very first things in the true riches of Christ is a personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ!***

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Psa. 119 shows a comparison between physical riches *and* the commandments and way of God. It is really quite a testimony to us in showing us how we need to approach God. If God blesses us with physical things we are not to set our hearts on it. The problem with the Laodiceans is that they—because they receive blessings—look at these blessings meaning that they are in right standing with God. *That is not always necessarily true!*

You can’t measure your spiritual standing with God by the physical things that you have. What did Satan offer Christ during the temptation? He said, ***‘If you’ll worship me I will give you all the nations of the world now and all the glory of them.’*** That means all the wealth, all the riches and all that sort of thing. If you are blessed, be thankful to God and do not equate that with that you are in better standing with God than other people who do not have. That could be a fatal error! Here’s how we need to look at these things.

I. **Fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ**

Psalm 119:121: “I have done justice and righteousness; leave me not to those who oppress me. Be surety for Your servant for good; let not the proud oppress me. My eyes fail for Your salvation and for the Word of Your righteousness” (vs 121-123).

You always look to God under all circumstances. That’s what the fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ is all about.

Verse 126: “It is time for the Lord to work... [notice how this fits in today] ...for they have made void Your Law.... [God always works and brings judgment when they do that] ...Therefore, I love Your commandments above gold—yea, above fine gold” (vs 126-127).

Today what do you have about three times an hour, if you are watching an hour of television? *Advertisement to buy gold!* They say these are the true riches. No, they are not. ***True riches are your standing with God!***

Now notice David's attitude, this is the whole point of conversion and where we need to come in our lives in our relationship with God:

Verse 128: "**Therefore I esteem all Your precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way.**" *That is quite a statement! Think about it!*

- Is God true? *Yes!*
- Is God righteous? *Yes!*
- Is God going to give us eternal life? *Yes!*
- Would He ever do wrong or sin against us in any way? *No!*

He may correct us because of our sins, but He is always righteous, merciful, faithful, kind and forgiving to us. If we come to God with the attitude that everything that God has is right, good, Holy and true, that needs to be our approach to God. There is the basis of all of the true riches.

Now let's look at what Moses had to go through. Granted, he had a tough assignment with the children of Israel. As you read the account of their wandering in the wilderness, whenever they did well they were *God's* people; whenever they did not do well and sin they were *Moses'* people. Here we have a little bit of *by faith* that we mentioned earlier:

Hebrews 11:23: "By faith Moses, after he was born, was hidden three months by his parents because they saw *that* he was a beautiful little child: and they did not fear the king's decree."

Isn't it interesting how God worked that out? His own mother was the nurse mother to take care of Moses because the princess took the child for her own. He was actually nurtured by his own mother. Quite a fantastic thing the way that worked out.

Verse 24: "By faith, Moses, after becoming a great *leader*..." I think the movie *The Ten Commandments* shows quite well—the best they could depict it—concerning the Exodus.

"...refused to be called *the* son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy *the* temporary pleasure of sin; for he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt because he was looking intently to the reward" (vs 24-26). *Notice what he had to do:*

Verse 27: "By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as *if he were* seeing the *One Who is* invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not slay them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as through a dry *land* in which the Egyptians, while making *the* attempt, were swallowed up *by the*

waters" (vs 27-29).

Quite a summary, all of that's *by faith!*. Moses is going to have a great and tremendous reward. Remember in the vision of the transfiguration on the Mt. of Transfiguration, who was there with Jesus? *Moses and Elijah!* The relationship that he had:

- fearing God
- loving God
- obeying the calling of God
- keeping His commandments was the most important

Let's look at *by faith*; how it operates with us. The books of Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians were written by the Apostle Paul when he was in prison. Yet, these are the most inspiring and uplifting, tremendous epistles. I call these three epistles: *Paul's Inspirational Epistles*. We're going to look at some things here concerning God's dealing with us.

II. The Calling of God

Many times when we're reading we overlook the first two verses so we can get to the rest of it, because we think it's most important. But the first two verses turn out to be very important in themselves when we understand it the way that God wants us to.

Ephesians 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and to *the* faithful in Christ Jesus... [it's written to all of us] ...Grace and peace *be* to you... [you want the grace of God and the peace of God] ...from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.... [it really sets the stage for the rest of what he is going to write] ...Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ" (vs 1-3).

All of the things we are going to talk about here with the true riches: *the true riches of Christ*, or *the true riches of God*, are heavenly things because they come from God. Anything that comes from God is heavenly; it's not earthy.

Verse 4: "According as He has **personally chosen** us..." That is what is called a *middle voice* verb. We don't have it exactly that way in English; it is called a *reflexive verb* in English. But in most cases the middle voice is the one who is the subject is also the object, 'I do it for myself'; or it involves someone else, then I translated it *personally* because God is personally involved in each one of our lives. We need to understand that. That is a *great treasure*. You cannot put a price on any of these things. What

is the calling of God to eternal life? ***But one of the greatest treasures that we could ever receive.***

“...has personally chosen us...” We need to seek God because He promised:

- **IF** we seek we will find
- **IF** we ask we will receive
- **IF** we knock it will be opened

He’s chosen us! Think about that for a minute.

“...for Himself...” (v 4)—*because God is a family!* Through the process of conversion He is reproducing Himself and expanding His Family. That is why we are made in the image of God.

“...before the foundation of the world...” (v 4). *He had His plan all ready before He created the earth!* I recently gave a sermon covering some of this on predestination so I won’t go into detail here.

“...in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love” (v 4). ***That is quite a calling!*** That’s the substance of why God has called us.

III. Sonship

Verse 5: “Having **predestinated us for Sonship to Himself** through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His own will.”

We’re called to be the sons and daughters of God! That’s something!

As we go through these things, I want you to kind of mentally compare that to what other religions in the world have to say if they profess Christianity. You will see they are missing the mark entirely and not understanding it. Some may come close but not like this.

Verse 6: *To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us objects of His grace in the Beloved Son.* ***Think of that!***

God’s purpose! God’s plan in putting us in fellowship with Him having called us and giving us the Sonship. ***His focus is on us!*** Why should it not be? If we have the Spirit of God united with our spirit in our minds—and we’re going to see that’s also part of the true riches—***He is focused on us! We are the objects of His grace!***

Whenever you are going through a trial, whatever problem you may be going through and sometimes we go through some difficult things and sometimes we even come to the point that we say ‘O God, ***why?***’ Remember, everything that we go through is to help us develop the true riches and character of God the Father through His Spirit. So we’re the “...objects of His grace in the Beloved Son.”

IV. Redemption and Forgiveness

Verse 7: “In Whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the remission of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

We want to receive the true riches of God’s grace in everything. That redemption is something. Remember what Jesus said on the Passover night?

John 15:7 expounds a little bit more on #1—*Our Fellowship with God:* “If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you...” ***That is conditional!***

It’s not going to happen unless you are in Christ and His words dwell in you. Through the process of conversion, through the Word of God, through prayer and study, you begin *thinking* with the Word of God. The Word of God then dwells in you, becomes a very part of your mind and spirit.

Notice the promise: “...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you” (v 7). ***We ask according to the will of God!*** The greatest thing that we want is eternal life. Everything else is subsidiary to that.

Verse 8: “In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples.” *When we are talking about the redemption through His Beloved Son, remember this:*

Verse 9: “As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; live in My love.” ***That’s a tremendous thing, and that is powerful!***

It’s not just an emotion. It is that you live by loving God, with all your heart, mind, soul and being. We have this redemption and forgiveness and here’s how it works in our lives. So this is a kind of combination of both of them.

Verse 10: “If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love... [the opposite of that is if you don’t keep His commandments you are not living in His love] ...just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and live in His love. These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you” (vs 10-12).

This is an overall ongoing goal between all of us: love each other. God has worked it out this way: He has called such a combination of people and types of background and education and things that it’s not like a part of your normal genetic family. He’s also called us who are the weak of the world and we’ve got our faults and problems on top of it. Because of that, in many occasions it is very difficult to really learn to love each other; because carnally we probably wouldn’t associate with each other unless God brought us together. I had to learn that.

The first time I went to church was in 1960. That was in Sacramento. I remember walking in the congregation and here were those who were just common ordinary folk: some of them not dressed very well. At first I thought ‘What am I getting into here?’ But I knew that God’s Word was true and I knew it was right. I said to myself ‘Well, you better get over it, Fred, because this the way that it’s going to be.’ We have to learn to love each other in the same way.

Verse 13 ties in with the redemption in the Beloved: “No one has greater love than this: that one lay down his life for his friends. **You are My friends...**” (vs 13-14).

So, if you are all alone and think you have no friends in the world, and you think that no one else knows you, no one else loves you, no one else cares for you. It’s like the sermon that we sent out in the Love Series, the very first one: **Remember When All Else Fails, God Loves You!** *Never forget that!* God is not looking to you physically, though we need to take care of ourselves. He is looking to us *spiritually* and what you are going to be in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 14: “You are My friends, if you do whatever I command you.” *So, remember that Jesus is your friend!*

Verse 15: “No longer do I call you servants, because the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends because I have made known to you all *the* things that I have heard from My Father.”

To understand the calling of God, He gives it to His friends. The way you become friends is *repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.*

Ephesians 1:7^[transcriber’s correction]: “...according to the riches of His grace...”

Let’s stop and think about this in relationship to sin. Let’s compare it to breaking a law of man. Say you really committed a tremendous blooper, bad news and in order to cure the thing you had to pay a fine of \$100,000. You say ‘Whoa! I don’t have that kind of money.’

Well, remember this: ***our sins killed Christ!*** How much was He worth? *The heavens and the earth because He created them!* Through the riches of God’s grace we have redemption and forgiveness at no monetary cost. There is a cost; it is each one of us. We become God’s.

“...according to the riches of His grace, which He has made to abound toward us in all wisdom and intelligence; having made known to us the mystery of His own will ...” (vs 7-9).

V. **Know the Will of God**

- How many people know the will of God?
- What is God doing?

Notice what trust God has placed in those whom He calls. To let you know:

- what He’s doing in every one of our lives
- what He’s doing in the world
- how He’s going to set up the Kingdom of God
- how we’re going to be a part of it

We’re going to be resurrected to be spirit beings! That’s all part of it. When you start adding up all these riches of God *it gets to be a pretty full sack of things!*

Verse 9: “Having made known to us the mystery of His own will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.”

Now notice the direct connection in the fellowship between you and God at all times.

VI. **An inheritance**

Verse 10: “That in *the Divine* plan for the fulfilling of *the* times, He might bring all things together in Christ, both the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth; *yes*, in Him, **in Whom we also have obtained an inheritance...**” (vs 10-11).

We will see a little later that is ***a joint inheritance with Christ***, which is something. This inheritance that we are going to receive is greater than anything you could receive, there is no comparison to anything on the earth.

“...having been predestinated according to His purpose, Who is working out all things according to the counsel of His own will; that we might be to *the* praise of His glory, who first trusted in the Christ” (vs 11-12). *Think about that for a minute!*

All the angels are going to praise God for the glorious thing that He is doing with us and especially after we’re resurrected and are spirit beings. This will expand further as we rule and reign with Christ. ***To the glory of God!***

Think about this: the next time you are at your weakest, maybe you’re sick, maybe you’re down in bed, maybe you’re so weak you can hardly get around. I know what that’s like because I didn’t take care of my health the way that I should’ve for a good number of years and I have two artificial hips. I know what it’s like when you’re sick, when you’re down, when you feel absolutely rotten and miserable, and puny and small, and you wonder: Am I going to live? The big cut in my hip, is it going to heal?

Remember this: that He is involved directly in your life. So it's not *who* you are—it is *what you are through Christ that is important*. Praise of His glory!

VII. The Holy Spirit

Verse 13: “In Whom you also trusted after hearing the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, after believing, you were sealed **with the Holy Spirit of promise**.”

No value can be put on that because that is the begetting of eternal life. You can't buy it. You have to follow God's way. You have to repent, you have to be baptized you receive the Holy Spirit. And that is the beginning, 'the earnest' as he says here:

Verse 14: “Which is *the* earnest of our inheritance until *the* redemption of the purchased possession, to *the* praise of His glory.”

Let's expand upon this. We'll come back to some of these things a little bit later.

Colossians 1:25: “Of which... [of the Gospel] ...I became a servant, according to the administration of God that *was given to me for you in order* to complete the Word of God.”

He knew he had to finish writing the Word of God. But this also tells us something else about a ministry. A ministry is to serve, to teach the Word of God. It's not for self-importance, it's not for self-exaltation, ***it is a responsibility to help and assist everyone to grow in grace and knowledge so they can attain to eternal life!*** Remember James said 'not many of you desire to be teachers because we will receive the sterner judgment.' So that takes care of hierarchy in a quick bit here.

VIII. Christ in You

Verse 26: “*Even* the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations...”

I want you to think about that the next time you watch the History Channel or National Geographic and they show you some of these ancient civilizations. Think about the millions and millions of people who have lived and died and never knew about the will of God because it wasn't completely revealed until Christ came, and then as He revealed even more of it to the Apostles so they could write it down for us. They didn't know; they didn't understand. That is quite something when you think about that.

God is dealing with us on an individual, personal level to qualify us to inherit eternal life and to rule with Christ, and to help bring to the whole world the knowledge of God and salvation. Now

that's something. To the world we're not important. To the world we're nothing.

“...but **has now been revealed to His saints**” (v 26). Isn't that something? The Holy Spirit brings the revelation and the understanding.

Verse 27: “To whom **God did will to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles...**”

You need to understand that statement! Book: *The Code of Jewish Law? The Code of Jewish Law* reflects the thinking of traditional Judaism toward other people, called Gentiles. They're all held beneath the status of Jews. If you ever run into a Jew and you let him know that you keep the Sabbath and Holy Days don't be too surprised if you don't get a hostile reaction. Because they feel the Sabbath and Holy Days is only for them and that they are the superior race on earth. How many have read any of the Talmud? How many have read the Mishnah? We have a few here who have. But this tells us the ignorance that people have toward Judaism.

Note sermon series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*. Remember what happened when Paul was found at the temple and they accused him of bringing in Gentiles into the temple and they seized him? *They were going to kill him, the centurion and soldiers came down and rescued him from the crowd!* Paul said, as he stood on the steps, 'May I speak to the people?' So, he held up his hands and they were all quiet and he spoke to them in Hebrew. He recited all the things that God had done with the children of Israel (Acts 21 & 22). When he came to the point that he mentioned the word 'Gentiles' they had a riot.

So, this is a profound thing that he is saying here. But now God has broken down the barriers so that He can call ***all people***. The ones who have rejected Christ—though they can repent and should repent, but most of them do not repent and accept Jesus—are going to have to wait for Him to return. That's quite something.

Note article we have on the website by Dr. Martin about the Law and Judaism. We are seeing today that God is beginning to work with more Jews than He has in the past. But I just want you to know what a tremendous thing that this is.

“...the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles...” (v 27)—*whom were considered unworthy of anything of God by traditional Judaism of Paul's day!* This is tremendous!

“...which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (v 27)

It is by what are the riches of the glory of this ministry—the secret plan of God—among the Gentiles, “...which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**”—*through the power of God’s Holy Spirit!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 6:19-21
- 2) Revelation 3:15-22
- 3) 1 John 1:1-4
- 4) Psalm 119:121-123, 126-128
- 5) Hebrews 11:23-29
- 6) Ephesians 1:1-7
- 7) John 15:7-15
- 8) Ephesians 1:7-14
- 9) Colossians 1:25-27

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 1:1
- Acts 21; 22

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried & Hyman E. Goldin

Sermon: *Covenant of Eternal Life*

Sermon Series:

- *Love Series*—(*Remember, When All Else Fails, God Loves You*)
- *Scripturalism vs Judaism*

FRC:jrm

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