



## ***Ephesians 3:8-9***

### **The Riches of Christ**

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### **Key Concepts to Be Addressed**

- “Saints” here are all Christians, and Paul’s self-description is meant literally
- Grace was given to Paul for the purpose of proclaiming the now-revealed mystery
- God’s plan is eternal and is now revealed as public truth
- God is the omnipotent, omniscient, eternal Creator of all things

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### **Paul Deemed Himself the Least**

#### **Ephesians 3:8a (NASB)**

To me, the very **least** of all saints, this grace was given,

- Paul’s emphatic comparison is with all saints, not just apostles
- Paul is truly amazed that God would use him
- Paul raged against Christ (1Timothy 1:13)

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### **The Fathomless Riches of Christ**

#### **Ephesians 3:8b (NASB)**

To preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches** of Christ

- Unfathomable means “beyond man’s ability to investigate”
- This preaching was the purpose of the grace that Paul was given
- “Riches” means “wealth” and was used in Ephesians 1:18 where Paul prayed that we would see the implications of this

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## Paul's Role to Enlighten

### Ephesians 3:9a (NASB)

and to **bring to light** what is the administration of the mystery

- Administration is thematic in this section (used in Eph 1:10, 3:2 and here)
- This "mystery" is brought to light, unlike the secret mysteries of the pagans
- The mystery is only known because God chose to reveal it through His apostles

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## The Creator Chooses What to Reveal and When

### Ephesians 3:9b (NASB)

which for ages has been hidden in **God who created all things**

- God is the transcendent Creator of "the all"
- Ages here refers to time, not spirits
- "All things" here is literal. Only God is eternal, uncreated, and non-contingent

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## Implications and Applications

- We must understand what constitutes true riches
- God reveals mysteries as He wills, and they cannot be divined by man
- Christians need to be well-taught about God as the transcendent Creator

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## True Riches Known by Faith

### Hebrews 11:26 (NASB)

considering the reproach of Christ **greater riches** than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

- Moses chose God's promises over the riches of Egypt (Heb. 11:24-25)
- The "reproach of Christ" is seen as wealth only by those who believe the promises

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## Only God Reveals Mysteries

### Daniel 2:27, 28a (NASB)

Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. **However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries**, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days."

- **The pagan diviners were in deep trouble!**

## God Is the Eternal Creator

### Colossians 1:16 (LEB)

"Because **all things** in the heavens and on the earth were created by him, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers, **all things** were created through him and for him,"

- "All things" refers to the entire universe
- Christ is superior over the entire creation, including the realm of the spirits