

Think On This



UNCLAIMED RICHES

Paul states, *“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* (Ephesians 3:8) These unsearchable riches include: redemption, all spiritual blessings, joy, strength to face the various circumstances of life, inner peace, and an eternal home in heaven. (Romans 3:24, Ephesians 1:3, Philippians 4:4, Philippians 4:11-13, Matthew 11:28-30 and Hebrews 5:9) However these riches are unclaimed in the lives of many within our society. **WHY?**

Popularity To obtain the riches that are in Christ a person must be willing to stand for the faith. (Jude 3) Acting on one’s spiritual convictions does not boost a person’s popularity. Therefore many do not claim the riches that are available in Christ because they are simply unwilling to sacrifice the possibility of alienating their peers. Remember John 12:43, *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

Family Relationships One’s allegiance to his or her family can hinder a person from obtaining the unsearchable riches in Christ. On more than one occasion I have heard the statement “I cannot change.” This sentiment was expressed because the individual did not want to upset his or her family by leaving their religious heritage. Let us not forget Matthew 10:37 which states, *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*

Riches Many are under the misguided impression that money is the cure-all for most of life’s problems. Therefore, their primary focus in life is geared to obtaining monetary wealth. Individuals with such a mindset will often spend little or no time to pursue the unsearchable riches in Christ because material gain is their goal. This choice is both unwise and spiritually detrimental. Jesus taught, *“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* (Luke 12:15) Again Jesus states, *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul.”* (Matthew 16:26) Paul warns, *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* (1st Timothy 6:10)

Self-centered It is obvious even to the casual observer that we are in the “me” generation. This self-centeredness becomes a major obstacle hindering many from obtaining the unsearchable riches in Christ. However, self-centeredness is not new to this generation. An individual who focuses upon pleasing himself will be unwilling to make the required sacrifices involved in obtaining the unsearchable riches of Christ. Jesus instructs, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”* (Luke 9:23) Paul shows the importance of making Christ one’s priority by stating, *“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”* (Colossians 1:18) It is apparent to me that as our society rejects the instruction from God and focuses upon themselves this leads to more and more wickedness. (Romans 1:28-32)

Conclusion Are the unsearchable riches in Christ unclaimed in your life? Will your love for this world distract you from obtaining the spiritual blessings which are only in Christ? Do you recall the warning within 1st John 2:15-17 which addresses this issue? If you are not enjoying the unsearchable riches of Christ, **NOW** is the time to switch your priorities. **NOW** is the time to put on Christ and serve Him daily. (Galatians 3:26-27, Luke 9:23 & Romans 13:11-14)

