

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2012**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVERS IN HIS PERSON**

Message Eleven

The All-inclusive One with the Unsearchable Riches

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:8; 1:10, 17-23

I. To the believers Christ in His person is the all-inclusive One with the unsearchable riches—Eph. 3:8:

- A. The riches of Christ are what Christ is to us, such as light, life, righteousness, and holiness, what He has for us, and what He accomplished, attained, and obtained for us; these riches of Christ are unsearchable and untraceable.
- B. The riches of Christ include what He is to us as God with the divine attributes, as man with the human virtues, and as the reality of every positive thing in the universe—John 1:1, 14; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 2:5; Col. 2:16-17.
- C. The all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches is the real light, life, breath, water, food, clothing, and dwelling place—John 1:4-5; 8:12; 11:25; 20:22; 4:14; 6:48; 14:2-3; 15:1, 4-5; Luke 15:22.
- D. As believers, we need to know and experience the unsearchable riches of Christ, which are for the producing of the church as His expression—Eph. 3:8, 10, 21; 1:22-23:
 1. This experience takes place through the divine dispensing of Christ into us; the more Christ is dispensed into us, the more life we have, the stronger life we have, the richer life we have, and the more uplifted the church life becomes—vv. 3-14.
 2. The riches of Christ produce the church through our experience and enjoyment of Christ—3:8; 4:16; Col. 2:9, 19; 1:18:
 - a. On Christ's side it is a matter of dispensing; on our side it is a matter of experience and enjoyment—Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2:2-3.
 - b. When we experience and enjoy the Christ who is dispensed into us, we become part of the proper church life—Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5.
 - c. By absorbing the riches of Christ, we become the Body of Christ as His fullness to express Him—Col. 2:6-7, 9-10, 19; Eph. 3:16-21.
 - d. The Body of Christ is constituted with the riches of Christ that have been experienced, enjoyed, and assimilated by us—v. 8; 1:22-23.
 3. The unsearchable riches of Christ are the fullness of the Godhead; the fullness of the Godhead has become the unsearchable riches of Christ to be dispensed into us for our experience and enjoyment—Col. 2:9; Eph. 3:8.

II. It is significant that Paul's word concerning the unsearchable riches of Christ is found in the book of Ephesians—v. 8:

- A. If we would know the real significance of these unsearchable riches, we need to consider the context of the whole book of Ephesians, seeing a vision of the profound matters revealed in this Epistle—1:10; 3:16-21; 4:4-6, 15-16; 5:32.
- B. The word *unsearchable* in 3:8 should cause us to realize that the unsearchable riches of Christ must refer to matters that are profound, far beyond our understanding.
- C. We need to be deeply impressed with the fact that in order to know Christ's unsearchable riches, we need to consider the entire book of Ephesians and see how various expressions in this book convey the unsearchable riches of Christ:
 - 1. In 1:17-23 Paul prayed that we would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know three great and profound matters: the hope of God's calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.
 - 2. Ephesians 1:10 speaks of "the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him":
 - a. God made Christ the Head over all things; through all the dispensations of God in all the ages, all things will be headed up in Christ in the new heaven and new earth—vv. 22, 10; Rev. 21:1.
 - b. The economy that God, according to His desire, planned and purposed in Himself is to head up all things in Christ; this is accomplished by the dispensing of the abundant life supply of the Triune God as the life factor into us so that we may rise up from the death situation and be attached to the Body—Eph. 1:23; Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5.
 - 3. Ephesians 1:23 says that Christ is the One who fills all in all; because Christ is the One who fills all in all, His riches are unsearchable.

III. As portrayed in the type in Genesis 24, the more we experience the riches of Christ, the more we are attracted to Him and are willing to be joined to Him as His counterpart for His satisfaction—vv. 22, 35-36, 53, 58:

- A. The gold nose-ring and bracelets, the silver and gold jewelry, and the clothing given to Rebekah, along with the precious things given to her brother and mother, symbolize the unsearchable riches of Christ—vv. 22, 53; Eph. 3:8.
- B. The servant testified to Rebekah concerning Isaac's riches and gave some of these riches to Rebekah as a foretaste—Gen. 24:35-36:
 - 1. This caused Rebekah to be attracted to Isaac and made her willing to leave her father's house to be his wife, even though she had never seen him.
 - 2. In the same manner the Spirit comes to Christ's believers and testifies to them of the riches of Christ, which He has received from the Father, causing them to be attracted to Christ and to love Him, forsake the world, and leave their natural relations in the flesh to be joined to Christ, even though they have never seen Him—John 16:13-15; Matt. 19:29; 1 Pet. 1:8.
 - 3. Before Rebekah met Isaac in the good land, she had participated in and enjoyed Isaac's inheritance through the servant's gifts; likewise, before we meet Christ, we enjoy the gifts of the Spirit as a foretaste of the full taste of His riches—Heb. 6:4; Rom. 8:23.