

L3 | The Riches of God's Grace | Ephesians 1:3-14

I. Intro/Review:

- **The God of All Grace (1 Peter 5:10)**
 - Manifold Grace
 - Riches of God's Grace
 - Abounding, Abundant, Abundance
 - Supply of Grace - measureless, bountiful
 - Sufficiency of His Grace - meet for God's purposes, power
- **The God Who Gives**
 - Inherently selfless, coincides with His love
 - Ps. 84:11
- **The Grace of Life (1 Peter 3:7)**
 - That which God bestows as Creator to His creatures, especially man
 - That which God first gives - breathe of life (living soul)
- **The Grace of The Lord Jesus Christ**
 - Creation - all things made by Him
 - Redemption - redemption in Christ Jesus

II. Preview:

- Defining "riches"
- Two kinds of riches
- The fulness of the riches of His grace

III. Sermon:

Defining "riches"

- **"riches"** - wealth (abundance of goods); opulence; affluence
 - Abundance of material goods
 1. Lands, properties and value of goodly land (pond, creek, lake-front)
 2. Money, retirement, 401k
 3. Possessions - houses, cars, technology (all assets - all goods of your estate)
 4. Honor, reputation, inheritance, name
 - Influence upon others
 - Riches are relative
 - They are that which we or society places value upon
 - Not simply that which we have in abundance, but what we need
 - How do we determine our need?

- Need - a state that requires supply or relief
- All which is relative - I need a new car (I just need this, I am waiting for my break)
- What is a definitive and universal marker that would establish criterion for what a need is?
 - Death and Life
 - What do we need for life so we don't die
 - Breathe (Health) - if we don't have we will die
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Food - if we don't have we will die
 - Water - if we don't have we will die
 - It is only when you don't have these things where you begin to realize how great it is to have them, how rich someone is who has them.
 - What the world does regarding its riches is measure that which gives the greatest distance from death, that is, comfort, ease, and separation. Excess of riches is that which can take your mind completely off death to think as if you will never die.
 - Nonetheless, whether it be the rudiments of the world like health, food, and water or the riches of the world with or without their excess such is rich based upon the measurement of death.
- Therefore, logically, the thing or provision that could deliver from death would be, in essence and should be to man, the greatest rich. Thus the one who possessed such riches would be most rich.
 - Beloved, God is most rich. He not only is rich by virtue of creation, but He is rich within Himself, because He is the living God.
 - House - Acts 7:48-50; Ps. 24:1, 89:11; 1 Cor. 10:26, 28; 1 Chr. 29:10-12
 - Water - Jn. 4:10-11, 7:38
 - Bread - Jn. 6:32-33
 - God needs nothing but is within Himself (I Am That I Am) - Acts 17:24-25
 - He gives (Rom. 11) - not given to
 - He upholds (Heb. 1) - not upheld
 - He sustains - not sustained
 - By Him all things exist and consist
 - Thus the living God, life itself is a greater measure of riches
 - He is the way, the truth, and the life
 - Life is not in the abundance of things we possess, but actual life
 - A prosperous life being delivered from death would be exceeding riches
- How are we then to understand death and life, not life and death and their corresponding riches?
 - **Psalm 49:1-20**
 - :6-7 - "**multitude of riches**" (had by accumulation of God's things)
 - "**none of them can by any means**"
 - "none of them" - individual or therefore their abundance

- "can" - power, ability (thus weak and powerless)
 - "by any means" - any which you manipulate or attempt
 - **"redeem his brother"**
 - No man can by his riches redeem himself - Prov. 13:7-8
 - If in a predicament to be redeemed cannot redeem yourself
 - Nor redeem his brother
 - Lev. 25:47-51
 - Redeem from who, from what
 - Nor give to God a ransom for him:
 - **"ransom"** - The money or price paid for the redemption of a prisoner or slave, or for goods captured by an enemy; that which procures the release of a prisoner or captive, or of captured property, and restores the one to liberty and the other to the original owner.
 - :8 - **"(for the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)"**
 - "for the redemption of **their soul**"
 - **Prov. 13:7-8** - "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth no rebuke."
 - **Ps. 34:22** - "The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate."
 - **"is precious"**
 - "precious"
 - 1 Peter 1:19 - "precious blood of Christ"
 - 1 Peter 2:4 - "...stone...precious" (Isa. 28:16)
 - **"and it ceaseth for ever:"**
 - "it" - the redemption of their soul
 - "ceaseth for ever." - too high a price for man; impossible; death
 - Prov. 27:24 - "for riches are not for ever:"
- Matthew 19:16-26 - how the Pharisees taught riches
 - Use of riches for the kingdom (riches)
 - The wrath of God is going to destroy the power of those riches (Prov. 11:4)
- Christ provides for redemption of the soul and it's an eternal redemption
 - Isa. 53:10-11 - make His soul an offering for sin (1 Cor. 15:1-4, 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - Heb. 9:11-15 - eternal redemption, eternal Spirit, eternal inheritance

Two Kinds of Riches

1. **The riches of this world** - uncertain, deal material blessing, weak, limited
 2. **The riches of God** - certain, deal with spiritual blessing, strong, abundant
- God is not only rich in that which He can give, but He is rich in Himself.

- Knowing Him as such is the one fruit of benefitting from His riches in justification.
- Our first encounter of God being rich in Himself beyond that which we experience daily is in redemption.

1. The riches of this world - that which God made, but that is worshipped and served more than the Creator

- That which is "trusted in"
 - Job 15:31 - vanity (Rom. 8 - subjected to vanity/bondage of corruption)
 - Ps. 20:7 - chariots and horses (armament, machinery)
 - Ps. 44:6 - in bow or sword (weaponry and artillery)
 - Ps. 49:6 - wealth and riches
 - Ps. 62:10 - oppression (robbery)
 - Ps. 118:8 - in man (in ourselves {2 Cor. 1:9}, in the flesh)
 - Ps. 118:9 - princes (government) (Ps. 146:3)
 - Isa. 42:17 - graven images (religion)
 - Jer. 7:8 - lying words (deceit)
 - Eze. 16:15 - own beauty (appearance)
 - Rev. 18:17, 19 - ships (commerce)
- Luke 12:15 - "And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
- Deceitful riches - Matt. 13:22
- Uncertain riches - 1 Tim. 6:17
- Corrupted riches - Jas. 5:2-3

2. The riches of God - that which God is, and that which we worship and serve Him for

- Trust in the Lord, He is our portion
 - Rom. 2:4 - goodness, forbearance, longsuffering
 - Rom. 9:23 - glory (Col. 1:27)
 - Rom. 11:33 - wisdom and knowledge
 - Col. 2:2 - understanding
 - Eph. 2:4 - mercy
 - Php. 4:19 - rich in glory
- The riches of His grace
 - His grace is that which He can be to and for us because of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord
 - Blessed with all spiritual blessings
 - His grace is the full manifestation of Who He for us and reveal to us that He is perfect and full in all things.

The Fulness of the Riches of His Grace

- Romans 3:24 - justification, sanctified, and washed
 - Titus 3:5-7
 - 1 Cor. 6:11
 - Rom. 6:14 - under grace
- Titus 2:11-15 - teaches us
 - Eph. 4:17ff

- 2 Thessalonians 2:6 - good hope through grace

IV. **Conclusion:**