

He Became Poor, We Became Rich

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1. In our study of 2 Corinthians 8-9, we considered Paul's appeals to examples to encourage Corinth to follow through with their promise to support needy saints.
2. He noted the generosity of the poor Macedonians who gave willingly, even beyond their ability (**2 Cor. 8:1-5**)
3. He exhorts Corinth to abound in this grace - as they do in everything (**2 Cor. 8:6-7**)
4. He then gives the example of Christ as the motivation for generous giving (**2 Cor. 8:8-9**)

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
that you through His poverty might become rich."*

Discussion:

I. HE BECAME POOR THAT WE MAY BE RICH

- A. Though Jesus "was rich" as He was with the Father in glory, He "became poor" by willingly leaving His Father's side to come to earth and take on flesh.
 1. Note what John says of this in:
 - a) **John 1:1-5**
 - b) **John 1:14-18**
 - c) **John 1:29-34**
- B. His poverty is further seen by his life and death as a humble servant who sacrificed himself upon the cross of us
 1. How does the Hebrews writer describe this in **Heb. 2:5-9; 4:14-16**?
 2. What does Paul have to say about Christ humbling himself in **Phil. 2:5-8**?
- C. It was through Jesus' poverty that we can become rich (**2 Cor. 8:9**)

II. OUR RICHES IN CHRIST

Throughout Paul's letter, he had mentioned a number of ways that he (and all saints) benefit from Christ's sacrifice - our riches in Christ.

- A. Comfort in Affliction (**2 Cor. 1:3-7**)
 1. What confidence did Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy have in their trials? (**2 Cor. 1:8-10**)
 2. What role does prayer play in this comfort for them, and for us? (**2 Cor. 1:11; Phil. 4:4-7; 1 Pt. 5:6-11**)

3. What are some ways God can use brethren to comfort us in affliction? (**2 Cor. 7:13-16; Rom. 12:15**)

B. Inward Man is Renewed (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**)

1. Though their bodies were being destroyed, they were refreshed daily. This perspective is what kept them from losing heart amid their suffering (**2 Cor. 4:1, 16**).
2. What is able to prevent us from becoming weary and discouraged in our souls (**Heb. 12:1-4**)?
3. Paul prays for the Ephesians that God would strengthen them by His Spirit in the inner man and Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith (**Eph. 3:14-21**).

C. Eternal Glory Awaits (**2 Cor. 4:17**)

1. How does Paul describe their suffering (**2 Cor. 4:7-15**) in light of the eternal weight of glory?
 - a) Compare with what Paul teaches in **Romans 8:18-25**.
2. **2 Cor. 5:1** - They endured because what was in store for them?
 - a) What did Paul reveal about this eternal glory for all saints in **1 Cor. 15**?
 - b) What will Jesus do to our lowly body (**Phil. 3:17-21**)

D. Unending Fellowship (**2 Cor. 5:6-8**)

1. How did Paul view life and death? (**Phil. 1:19-26**)
2. We should live faithful lives so we can be with the Lord for eternity (**2 Cor. 5:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:13-18**)

E. A New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17)

1. How does Paul describe this in **Gal. 2:20**?
2. How does Paul describe this new creation in **Eph. 4:20-24; Rom. 6:1-11**?
3. Not conformed to the world, but transformed. (**Rom. 12:1-2**)

F. Reconciliation Through Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

1. What is our condition outside of reconciliation in Christ (**Rom. 5:6-11**)?
2. What does Paul say about this reconciliation (and our riches in Christ more broadly) in **Ephesians 1:3-14**?

G. Righteousness Through Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)

1. What did God do to Christ so we could become the righteousness of God?
2. What does Paul say of this righteousness in **Rom. 3:21-26**?

H. We Are God's Sons and Daughters (2 Cor. 6:17-18)

1. What should be the result of living as children of God (**2 Cor. 6:14-16; 7:1**)?
2. What does Paul say about the blessing of being children of God in **Rom. 8:12-17; Gal. 3:26 - 4:7**?
3. How does Peter say we should behave as children of God (**1 Pt. 1:13-21**)?

Conclusion:

1. Hopefully we are always appreciative of what Christ endured so that we might be rich in Him!
2. In relation to supplying the needs of saints - Paul promised that God would furnish them to be able to do every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-15)
3. When our brethren are in need, may we look on Christ who gave everything when we had nothing - and then give with liberality.