

Romans 9:23-24(TLB) ²³⁻²⁴And he has a right to take others such as ourselves, who have been made for pouring the riches of his glory into, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, and to be kind to us so that everyone can see how very great his glory is.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

You are rich and so am I. God made you, formed and fashioned you, for pouring the riches of his glory into. God is most kind to do this so that everyone can see how very great God's glory is.

The glory of the Lord is that which God exalts in and lives in. God is absolutely glorious, beyond human comprehension. If you or I were to see God in all of His glory, we would all be instantly on our knees, or flat out on the ground, wanting to glorify God. One look at God's glory and all you want to do is glorify God, adore God, delight in God, worship and praise God, enjoy God, rejoice in God, and refrain from sin. God's glory is so bright the Bible tells us God lives in unapproachable light (1 Tim.6:16).

"Glory in the Old Testament refers to the greatest of weight, worth, wealth, splendor, and dignity, all of which are present when God is said to have revealed His glory" (J.I.Packer, Concise Theology – A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs, pg. 60). God's glory is something too great for us to see. So, God has to hide Himself in a cloud, call the Shekinah glory cloud. That glory cloud came down on Mt. Sinai, the sign of God's active Presence (ibid. pg.60). When Jesus comes again, He comes in the cloud, that great glory cloud.

God has shown us what we can see of God's glory in the life of Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see God's nature, character, power, and purpose. God's glorious plan is to save us by grace through faith for all eternity. We give glory to God by speaking, singing, and living our lives unto God. We live for the pleasure of God. We live to give glory to God and for the glory of God. God does not need us to tell Him who He is. God has no needs, but God shares his glory with us so we in return can give to God the glory God so richly deserves. God shares,

pours, his glory into us so people can come to know Jesus because of our life's witness. Every believer has within the light of Christ. God's glory is just itching to get out of you for all to see.

We do not want to hide our light under a bushel, no!

I wish to point out five more riches of God's glory that has been poured into you.

1. You have within you the treasure of the Good News of Jesus Christ. (Jesus never sinned)
2. You have been granted the treasure of the riches of eternal life. (Christians never die)
3. You have been given by God the Word of God. God has shown us everything God wants us to know about Himself, life here, and the afterlife in His word, the Bible.
4. We have been given by God the treasure of the community of believers. God's love and encouragement often comes to you and to me from each other. Our rich friendships in Christ are priceless.
5. God has given to you the treasure of having a place to raise your children. The majority of believers come to Christ before the age of 18. This makes the early years of raising our children in the church eternally important.

God has the rich treasure that He pours into you, what we call Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. God's Holy glorious presence is somehow in that bread we eat and the wine or grape juice that we drink. I cannot explain that for there is mystery here. Jesus says, "This is my body," and Jesus also says, "this is my blood." We eat and drink in the grace of God. God gives us new life, renewed life, a cleansed life, an empowered life, and it is all a work of God's grace. Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty. It is the holiest of moments when we take that all in. Your very soul is touched by God. What you eat and drink, makes you absolutely rich. Yes, how rich you are. God has poured the riches of His grace – God has poured Himself into you.

God has poured into you His Holy Spirit. There is no one or nothing more rich than God's Holy Spirit. The greatest treasure of all is God's Holy Spirit residing within our souls. The Holy Spirit inside of us actually speaks to God the Son and God the Father on our behalf.

Romans 8:26-27(NLT) *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.*

I think we all feel guilty for not praying as we ought to pray. When I hear of people who spend 3 hours a day in prayer my lunch almost comes up. This has often been said to me, "Pastor, I do not know what to pray for." The good news is the Holy Spirit residing within you knows exactly what to say to God about you and always intercedes according to the will of God. Part of your soul is a pray factory, always connecting you to the Father and Son. This the work of the Holy Spirit in your soul. The entire Trinity is always in cahoots with each other, in unity of purpose. Yes, you are rich for God has poured the Holy Spirit into your soul. **Romans 5:5(NIV)** *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* How rich you are.

God has given to you the treasure of spiritual gifts to build up and encourage the church and all for the glory of God. Your gifts have made you rich. A spiritual gift is an ability given to you by the Holy Spirit of God so you can help the church grow in Christ in ways that brings glory to God. I will never forget the first year we gave the students in confirmation the test that told them what their spiritual gifts are. When they discovered their gifts, the entire class became ignited, on fire for Christ. They understood why they thought, felt, and wanted to do because that is what God was calling them to do. One student discovered he has the gift of music and played in the band until he could no longer due so. Another student discovered she has the gift of evangelism and that is why she can never be quite about the Christian faith. She is never

ashamed of the Gospel that saves people for eternity. These 7th and 8th graders understood themselves and where they fit in God's plan for their lives, putting their spiritual gifts to use for the glory of God.

I cannot tell you how God has gifted you. A majority of you took a spiritual gift test during Lent a year or so ago. Putting your gifts to use for the glory of God gives to you one of the greatest enjoyments in life. I have seen super depressed or anxious people discover their spiritual gifts and put them to use for the glory of God and they were filled with joy. They discovered a purpose in living like never before. Their focus became others and not their own personal needs.

God has given to you the treasure of being surrounded by people of great faith. In this church are people of exceptionally mature faith in Jesus Christ. Some of them are still in high school. A mature faith does not occur because we age. A mature faith comes as you immerse yourself in the Scriptures, believing every word, and discovering the riches of God's glory that have been poured into you. The treasures are all to be found in the Bible, everyone of them. I can look at a person and know they have discovered riches in Christ that I have yet to discover. They know something I do not know. I have so much more to learn and discover of who I am in Christ Jesus. Being surrounded by people of great faith helps us each grow in our own Christian identity, living out who you are who I am in Christ and all to the glory of God.

The cross of Jesus Christ is where all of the riches we receive were paid for in full. All of the rich blessings that we have in Christ came with a cost. The cost was Jesus perfect life, death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven. Jesus paid in full for all of them on the cross. His death, resurrection, and ascension opened the door for every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. When I look at the cross, I see God's key that opens the door for us to receive all that God has for us. God has poured the riches of His glory into us.

Jesus paid for it all by giving up his life for us on the cross. You are rich. The best of the riches are yet to be. Amen and Amen.