

that made him a saint. He was a monument of grace, an heir of grace, and consequently he felt that he did not deserve to be a saint. The grace of which he here speaks however, seems to have a specific reference to the office which he sustained. A great favor was conferred upon Paul when he was made a preacher. He looked upon it as an honour of which he was utterly unworthy. Unto *me* is this grace given; *me* who once had such a hatred in my heart to him whom I now see to be the Divine Redeemer.

I was once in my element when I was persecuting the poor saints, yet upon *me*, *unworthy me*, is this high, this holy, this heavenly favour of being a fellow-worker with God conferred. As if he had said, O I may well call it grace, I may well speak of it as a free undeserved favour, I may well call it a gift, for I *deserved*, and still deserve, and feel that I deserve nothing at the hand of God but destruction and wrath.

The apostle adds: "*That I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*" Here Paul states the design which God had in view in calling him to the holy ministry and apostleship.

"*The unsearchable riches of Christ.*" This is the subject matter of the gospel. This was Paul's text; he preached all his sermons from this text. A sermon without Christ in it is a body without a soul; a well without water, utterly unfit to accomplish the grand ends for which the gospel ministry has been instituted. Christ is the sun in the firmament of the Scriptures. He is the pearl of great price; the treasure hid in the gospel field. Paul delighted to preach Christ; hence we hear him on one occasion saying, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified," and on another occasion he says "If Christ is preached I therein do rejoice, yea and will rejoice."

The expression *riches* is a word frequently used by the apostle in his epistles. See for example Rom. ii. 4; ix. 23; xi. 12, 33. Phil. iv. 19. Col. 22. *Riches* convey the idea of *abundance*. There are in Christ abundant precious benefits, and spiritual blessings. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and grace and glory, are to be found in him. There is abundance of merit in his death and love in his heart. Every blessing which we require is at his disposal.

You will notice too, that the riches of Christ are *unsearchable* riches. There is much about the Divine man that is mysterious, inscrutable, and incomprehensible. We may search into these mysteries, and get our minds filled with knowledge and satisfaction, but still the treasures of knowledge are inexhaustible treasures, the riches of Divine love and mercy