

A Sermon
from
2 Corinthians VIII, 9

For ye know the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ that though he ^{was}
rich, yet for your sakes he became
poor that ye through his poverty
might be rich.

The incarnation of Christ the
only begotten Son of God which we
commemorate this day is beyond
doubt one of the greatest mysteries
to which our faith, and devout
attention ~~can be~~ ^{can be} ~~directed~~ ^{directed}. But we may
That the Son of God took our nature ^{expected much}
upon him, that the word was made flesh, ^{erious}
that Godhead & manhood were ^{in a divine}
united in one person, even Christ. ^{revelation}
this may be said to be the most
~~it might be truly called the most marvellous~~ ^{marvellous}

~~even~~ stupendous act
~~and~~ the world can behold. Were
it ~~merely a matter of fact for our inquiry~~
~~and speculation, without our being di-~~
~~rectly interested knowing the purpose~~
~~for which it was intended, we could~~
~~simply~~

Were we ignorant of its purpose, or, without
any direct interest in it, merely as a
matter of fact, it might well excite
our inquiry & speculation. But
blessed be God we are deeply in-
terested, and not left to mere conjecture
& speculation. It concerns our ~~eternal~~
~~welfare~~ highest interests, our eternal
welfare. For God sent his Son ~~from~~ out
of love & compassion, to procure our redemption;
& Christ took our nature upon him
~~and~~ uniting himself with the fallen
race of man, in order to undo
act & destroy the works of the

devil. The woman's seed, that is
the first promise ~~promised~~ after man's
transgression, should bruise the serpent's
head. The union of the Divine & human
nature in Christ implies a twofold
purpose, viz: to take away our sin &
guilt, by an atoning sacrifice, and
to make us once men partakers of the
Divine nature.

The words of our text do not directly
mention the ~~meritorious~~ ^{redeeming} work of
Christ's ~~redemption~~; but rather
extol & commend the special sig-
nificance of Christ's deep ~~understanding~~
on our behalfs for our benefit.
His submission to the Father's will
his lowly condition & humiliation
on earth, constituted the first step
towards the sinner's ~~redemption~~,
restoration.

to bestow
on us spiritual
treasures
by an
price.

This ~~very~~ ^{designed} earthly poverty was ~~intended~~
to enrich us ~~to enrich us spiritually~~. Christ's
becoming poor for our sake was as much an
act of grace as of condescension.

~~This is the Apostle points out to us~~
Assuredly then, the ~~commemoration~~ of the
the wonderful event which we ~~celebrate~~ ^{celebrate} this
day, ought to stimulate us to rejoicing
& gratitude, to ~~praise & adoration~~ ^{praise & adoration} of ~~God~~ the Father
of Jesus. Again & again, with every re-
turning year, the narration of Christ's
birth ought to create within us ~~within~~
a renewed interest in its interests im-
portance. The benefit arising from it is
unspeakable & the effect will last
throughout eternal ages.

I) Represents
Christ's con-
descension
as a special
act of grace.

But we proceed to the consideration of
our text which in the first place
I) ~~Reminds us of the~~ ^{the} wonderful grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ as shown in his deep condescension
II) ~~How~~ ^{How} ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~descended~~ ^{descended} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~grace~~ ^{grace} in the
act of his ~~deep condescension~~

its blessed effect
IV, Shows the ~~reason~~ ^{benefit} offered for our
benefit & gain.

May the Father's gracious aid
& blessing, and the Holy Spirit's
guidance & teaching, be ~~with~~ ^{accompany}
in our present meditation, ^{so} that
the person & name of Christ ~~the~~ as
the God man may be magnified &
glorified within us & amongst us.

I, The more immediate object of St Paul
in our text is, to hold forth Christ as
a pattern for our ^{appreciation &} imitation, ^{because of} his con-
descending love & compassion towards
this poor perishing world, whereby he brought
grace & heavenly riches ~~unto~~ ^{unto} us for our comfort & ~~self~~ ^{encouragement}.
In the previous part of the Chapter
the Apostle ^{praises} commends the Churches
of Macedonia for their self-sacrificing
liberality towards those who were in
want. And then they have come out
of their deep poverty & amidst much
affliction. ~~This he commends~~
St Paul commends this

as a ^{deed} ~~strong~~ proof of their fellowship &
sympathy with the Saints who were in poverty & need.
As they have given themselves up to the
Lord, so they likewise have devoted them-
selves & their substance to the benefit
of their brethren ^{the service of the Church & so} acts of charity and
brotherly kindness. He would have his
Corinthian readers bear this in mind,
and take a lesson from those who
have thus shown by their ~~example~~
noble example how deeply they were
influenced by the love & grace of God.
And now St Paul in the words of our
Text would point out a still greater
brighter & more perfect example of
affection & universal love, ~~it is the~~
even ^{the} example of Christ. It was an act of spe-
cial grace that he descended from
the bosom of his Father & the throne of
glory to earthly poverty & humiliation.
That the eternal word the Lord of glory,
took our nature upon him
and ~~was manifest~~ dwelt among men,
even had he been sharing the lot of
the rich & great of this world, had he

become an earthly prince, and still have
been a great undecension. For what family
greatness, or riches can compare ^{with} the
majesty & ^{riches} of the Son of God. But
Christ was more, he descended to men
of low estate. Though heralded into the
world by the song of angels, he, never-
theless, was in the eyes of the world
an obscure individual, recognized
by few only and set at naught by ^{many, even}
by the great & noble of his world.

Born ~~among the Jews~~ in a
stable, lived in a manger, who would
imagine his Divine essence, or his destined
~~and~~ greatness! He emptied him-
self, as it were, of his Divine & exalted distinction,
~~and~~ made himself of no reputation
& took upon him the form of a servant.
He was made, for a time, lower than
the angels, whose services & ministrations
he might justly command. Surely this
is a humiliation beyond parallel, it
~~is a poverty truly~~ this is being made
poor beyond conception. He ~~had~~ ^{Christ}
not where to lay his head. ^{might}
~~There~~ ^{that he}

There was nothing to attract & to amaze
in his outward appearance & con-
dition. He was despised & rejected ^(of men),
his ~~superior excellency~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ his ^{only} recog-
nized ^{at last} ~~at last~~ by his successful works,
even by his ~~base~~ benevolent acts,
& by the purity & holiness of his life.

Now in all this, such is the Apostle's
view of Christ, there was a manifestation
of grace Divine. There was a deep
significance in the humiliation, ~~condemnation~~
& poverty to which our blessed Lord ^{submitted}
~~was subject~~; a mighty & glorious
purpose ~~was~~ lay concealed under
the outward garb of lowliness. The
wisdom & grace of God was to be more
manifested ~~not by outward~~ all the
time at work to bring about ^{the most} ~~the most~~ blessed
^{results} ~~mighty effects~~. God's greatest works have
generally have a small beginning; but
~~rest on the power & ability of the~~
~~personality~~
their gradual development & growth

but their gradual development & growth are wonderful
 will be seen by the eyes of faith & ^{that & sure}
~~elemental~~ in due time shall
 be seen; for they ~~shall~~ ^{have their origin in} ~~shall~~ ^{eternal & life-imparting}
~~life-imparting~~ principles, ~~of eternal~~ ^{furnished in eternal}
 truth, on the will & ~~purpose~~ ^{counsel} of Him
 who overrules all things for his glory
 even the salvation of his people.
 All this is made manifest in the ^{life & history} of Christ, in the
 redemption he wrought by his humil-
 ities, sufferings & death ~~and~~ ^{his earthly}
~~his glorious resurrection & ascension~~ ^{life & history}
~~that followed.~~ Mark, dear brethren,
 the ^{history} ~~history~~ of Christ Church &
 Kingdom. Who would have thought
 that one so poor & obscure in the
 world, one whose entrance into
 his earthly region was ~~through~~
 this world was so little regarded,
 whom the world
~~was who was at last rejected~~ ^{new}
 by his own nation, ~~and was~~ ^{new}
 whose sincere followers were so
 few & generally poor, men of low
 estate, and who was at last rejected
 by his own nation the great
 majority of his own nation, shall
 be ^{among} ~~be~~ ^{men}

should
establish a Kingdom, a spiritual
Dominion which no opposition could
thwart, or retard ^{in his} ~~in their~~ ~~progress~~ ^{accomplishment}
whose influence & operations ~~should~~
~~extend~~ ^{extend} among all the nations of the
earth ~~to that we have a true~~ ^{as surely we have a sufficient}
that the gates of hell shall not prevail
against Church ~~his~~ ^{his} Church.

It was just because Christ became poor
for our sake, because he became a
partaker of human nature, ^{with} ~~in~~ all
its infirmities, its trials & temptations, in
only excepted, ~~with~~ ^{with} all the afflictions & suffer-
ings that flesh is heir to, going about
~~in the form of a poor~~ ^{in the form of a poor}
earthly pilgrim, ~~and~~ ^{and} humbled him-
self to the death of the cross, the ignominious
death of a malefactor, that he was so
highly exalted, and as the King of glory
the heir of everlasting Kingdom ~~that~~
he maketh many rich, rich in faith
~~and~~ ^{and} rich in the enjoyment
of spiritual manna, of heavenly man-
nabars, rich ~~in that he~~ ^{in that he} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~glory~~ ^{glory} in title,
The riches of grace & Divine, what earthly
riches can compare with them? ~~He~~

that he
proved
in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~form~~ ^{form} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~a~~ ^a ~~poor~~ ^{poor}
earthly pilgrim,
of exalting
the world.

It was
because
he
rich by receiving
the right course of
holiness we lost.

It hopes
him of ~~pay~~ ^{pay}
exalting ~~him~~ ^{him}
in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~form~~ ^{form} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~a~~ ^a ~~poor~~ ^{poor}
earthly pilgrim,
joint heirs with Christ,

That man
alone can be called truly rich ~~in~~ blessed & happy
~~who is content~~ who is rich in love, ~~whose~~ ^{whose} spiritual
with the ~~best~~ portion which God has ~~bestowed~~ ^{hunger & thirst are}
allotted to him, ~~and~~ ^{satisfied} ~~waiting~~ for that rich reward in
heaven, which is reserved in heaven.
To be partakers of the Divine nature
even more, to be true temples of the
living God, to be united to Christ by
a faith that overcomes the world,
to be conquerors of sin & Satan,
to have the witness of the Spirit that
we are the children of God, to be
joyful in the hope of glory, ~~and~~ ^{these are}
these are riches beyond any thing
that this world can bestow. Again
~~therefore~~ the believer in Christ ~~is~~ ^{also}
rich has the promise of this life, ~~when seeking~~
that which even ~~the~~ ~~world~~ ~~is~~ ~~seeking~~
after the kingdom of God, he will have
in addition all that is needful
& expedient for this life. ~~The riches~~ ^{here on earth}
~~shall never be forsaken.~~ ~~The~~ ~~riches~~ ~~shall~~ ~~multiply~~ ~~and~~ ~~multiply~~ ~~a~~ ~~few~~
loaves & fishes to feed thousands, ~~which~~ ^{How could}
is still the same, ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~useful~~ ^{on earth,}
still able & willing.

to provide for all our needs.

~~our needs~~. No could, when it is
said that we should be made rich
through Christ's poverty ~~which is our~~
spiritual & heavenly riches, spiritual
gifts & graces are immeasurably extensive;
but he who can bestow ^{enough} riches
~~will~~ will abundantly supply all
our bodily necessities, if we can but unite
in faith & ^{confidence} cast all our cares
upon him.

And here I might enlarge & show
that in proportion as Christ is known
& obeyed

Who would not serve such a Master?
Who so ungrateful as to forget what
Christ has done for us? Who can be un-
mindful of all the humiliations &
consecrations to which we blessed
Lord ^{was subjected} ~~submitted~~ for our sake? Was
not his life from the cradle to the grave,
or, from the manger to the tomb, a
life of unspeakable trials mani-
fested

~~a life marked with unnumbered~~
~~trials from the reproaches of sinners~~
with unnumbered humiliations & reproaches, with the

marked
with the
poverty
of an
unknown
~~foreigner~~
with unnumbered

Appointed unto contempt
~~unto contempt~~ of sinners, of these whom
 he came to save? Truly he was the
 Meek of sinners & acquainted with
 grief. And all this for our sake, on our account,
 for our spiritual & eternal gain,
~~benefit~~. From first to last grace
 attended his every step, grace was
 blessings flowed from his lips, grace was preached
~~con~~ ~~between~~ to all who came
 to him for help & deliverance, whether in
 body & soul, grace laid them
 amidst every difficulty, trial
 grace to sustain them ~~unto the~~
~~end of their~~ to be faithful unto death.
 Truly then it behoves us to serve
 & glorify Christ, to speak & be heard
 in his cause, to abound in good
 works, to hear him with our substance,
 to ~~con~~ promote the ^{welfare & happiness} of his Church,
 to make a good use of ~~our talents~~ the talents & abilities
 with which he has ~~endowed us~~ ^{favoured us}.
 If in every translation of his grace enriched
 by his blessings & waiting for his coming,
 you must & will, my dear brethren,
 from love & gratuitous labor for the
~~honor & glory~~ ^{honor & glory} of Christ &
 given under heaven whereby men shall be saved ^{in the only name}