

A Sermon from 2. Cor. VIII. 9

Wallingford  
(Christmas)

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 festival which we celebrate  
this day forms the basis of all the  
festivals of the Church in as much  
as on the event of Christ's Nativity  
all these other great events which  
we commemorate depend. Were  
it not for the birth of Christ the Christian  
Church would have no cause to celebrate  
any festivals at all, at least



as festivals of joy & praise, as I say. were it not for the merit of Christ  
the Church would not exist as we  
might add; He would ~~have~~ have  
been consumed by the just anger  
of Leovah. But it was with a view  
to the atoning sacrifice of Christ  
that God bore with long suffering  
the world of old; it is in remembrance  
of the sacrifice now offered that  
God continues to forbear with  
a world of sinners & proclaims  
pardon to all who come to him in  
Christ his Son. This is a day then  
of the greatest importance, a day differing  
with the no ordinary consequences  
a day full of rejoicing, at least  
we ought to be for there is abundant  
cause for it. This is the day which the Lord  
has made let us rejoice & be glad  
in it thus we ought to admire one another  
thus the minister of the Gospel must



admonish his Learners. Yes my brethren  
if ever there is <sup>a</sup> time for rejoicing it is  
the time when we commemorate the birth of  
the Saviour of the world. If heavenly Powers  
proclaiming the marvellous work found  
cause to rejoice & join in a cheerful  
chorus to glorify God & to congratulate  
gallia mankind much more ought we  
who are immediately <sup>interested</sup> concerned, <sup>to rejoice</sup>  
not unto angels but to men. The  
begotten of God was given, not the  
nature of angels, be assured but the  
nature of men. If it was worth while  
that then blessed Spirits should cele-  
brate <sup>from heaven or earth</sup> ~~to sing~~ of an anthem of praise  
& joy and to proclaim in the vision  
of the night the joyful news; surely  
it is <sup>behave us</sup> ~~worth while~~ for us to express  
our gratitude & to adore the Father  
of mercies for the precious boon; for  
unto us a Child is born, unto us a  
Son is given, the Son of the Almighty.  
Then the Prophet of old in anticipation



of the glorious manifestation of Divine love  
cheers himself & the human race, and  
the Angels announce the accomplish-  
ment of the prophecy by declaring  
unto you, "For unto you is born this  
day a Saviour, who is in the city of  
David who is Christ the Lord."  
If we but know to appreciate him, if we  
have appropriated him with his merits  
to ourselves, if he has become our portion  
our delight; if indeed we know that  
he is personally our Saviour we  
shall not fail to rejoice. Let that  
question, ~~that important question be~~  
~~decided~~; let us not be satisfied  
till we know he is ours, and we shall  
be sure to rejoice with thanksgiving  
& praise, we shall not only this  
day but all the days of our lives  
admire the stupendous display of  
Divine love & mercy. we shall glorify  
& humbly adore the incarnate Son  
of God; and to whom the world may



presence of the same omnipotent & creative  
power, having been an agent at the  
creation of the world, he was the express  
image of God the bright & the lustre  
& effulgence of Divine glory in that glory  
& Divine altogether not in degree merely  
but in perfection. Before him angels  
bowed with sacred awe, Seraphims & Cherubims  
adored him, the hosts of heaven ascribed  
to him their united & solemn praise. Yet  
he thus surrounded with majesty & honors  
thus rich in heavenly enjoyments, thus  
clothed in Divine glory for took for a while  
this blessed state and came down into  
a world of sorrow, suffering & woe, exchanging  
his heavenly glory for the form of man with  
flesh. being surrounded by sinful creatures,  
these sinful polluted & miserable <sup>human</sup> ~~world~~  
instead of holy happy & adoring spirits  
All this is implied in the Apostle's simple  
expressions, "though he was rich yet he became  
poor" "he was rich in the absolute perfect  
sense of the word, presence of heaven & glory.

All earthly riches vanish & fade away - -



every thing here is uncertain nor can any thing  
give satisfaction than so as is truly rich. yet  
~~we should~~

yet we should consider it an inexpressible  
<sup>self denial</sup>  
concession on the part of a rich man to  
renounce his riches & all the enjoyments  
connected with them and to become poor  
from his own choice, to live with the  
meanest, the destitute & despised in  
order to resemble them. I have said and  
suppose a royal prince <sup>as heir to the throne</sup> of the present  
his enjoyments riches & luxury & lived  
with the meanest of his subjects in  
order submitting to this privation & accepting  
their habits & mode of living in order by  
willing to raise them from misery &  
poverty to greatness & riches. how  
much should we admire the self denying  
generosity, indeed men would sacrifice



think of him, alto. believe & rejoice  
in a crucified Saviour who  
assumed our nature in order that  
he might be a sacrifice for our  
sins. We shall often exclaim with love  
& gratitude, O! what love & condes-  
cension on the part of the only begotten  
Son of the Most High to come down from  
the throne of glory into this world of  
misery & torments & privation. This  
will be, according to our text, the  
particular subject of our meditation  
to which I would call your eloquent  
attention. We shall endeavor then  
to consider

- I, the deep anguish & humiliation  
of Christ.
- II, the innermost benefit arising from  
it for the believer.

May he thus draw near to us being  
in human flesh draw near to us  
now with his spirit and apply the blessings  
result of his incarnation with all its <sup>glorious</sup>  
corresponding & efforts to our hearts!



We consider

I. The deep consciousness & humiliation of Christ the Son of God  
In order to understand how deeply the Son of Christ  
condescended, how much he humbled himself, we  
must first consider the height of glory & majesty  
which he occupied previous to his becoming  
man. But, alas! how can we ignorant, short-  
sighted men, we dependent, mortal beings,  
we poor wretched creatures, are darkness  
by sin comprehend him who is the Everlasting  
Son of the Everlasting God, him who is exalted  
according to his Divine nature above human  
conception & description. His glory is in-  
fable; no human spirit can rise to the  
height of Divine exaltation. no language  
of man express the felicity of the  
divinity. Nothing that is within the reach  
of our comprehension, no human greatness  
or earthly glory dare be compared to  
the glorious perfection of God. And  
Christ was the Only Begotten Son of God  
resting in the bosom of his Father, enjoying  
equal glory & power & happiness. He was



For your sakes 3







from woe to either this affliction  
& pain. Yet even such a cruel suffering  
bears no comparison to that of the son  
of God. — — —

Let us bear in mind that the Lord  
Jesus altogether voluntarily undertook  
~~the immense~~ the immense charge <sup>we are</sup> from  
a state of incalculable riches to extreme  
poverty. What state no man likes to be  
in to become — poor, what every one  
if possible endeavours to avoid.  
He became of his own accord. We women  
& all men it is a person, if we can  
reduced circumstances we see them  
at all content & humbly submitting  
to their privation. But he was one  
who became poor by his own choice



so poor as to be put in a manger  
when an infant, and not to be <sup>permanently</sup>  
when grown up to narrow when taking  
his leave ~~on~~. And now that  
if some generous persons engaged for  
his fellow men to live a life of  
much trouble & conflict of mind  
& self-denials & endurances  
to participate in all their distresses  
in order to extricate them at last from <sup>any</sup> misery  
I would at all events have the  
satisfaction of being viewed with  
with welcome gratitude & praise  
but not as the Son of Joseph. He has  
to share all the shame contempt &  
reproaches that frequently accompany  
poverty.