Introduction To The Unfathomable Riches of Christ

This series is titled, “The Unfathomable Riches of Christ”, based on this passage:

Ephesians 3:1-8

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you; 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets [1](https://biblia.com/books/nasb95/Eph3)in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all [1](https://biblia.com/books/nasb95/Eph3)saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles **the unfathomable riches of Christ**…

Various authors have sought to bring together those great truths:

* Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology Vol. III, Soteriology, pages 234-266
* Hampton Keathley III, The Unfathomable Riches of Christ, compiled from Lewis Sperry Chafer’s material by Keathley, & edited with permission, by Nancy Peterman
* Robert Thieme, 40 Things God Provides Every Believer At Salvation, also compiled from Lewis Sperry Chafer’s material
* Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Thirty Three Things: A Study of Positional Truth
* George Zeller, 215 Things that Are True of Me Now That I Am Saved

Each one of these authors and editors have brought out something a bit differently, sometimes varying the format, and has done pretty well. But one essential ingredient that each author has included is to reference, if not quote, the Scripture passages that apply, and that is excellent! Over the year 2018 we will explore in depth each of the Scripture passages which present what has been called in brief:

* ‘Who you are in Christ’
* The believer’s spiritual position and possessions
* God’s spiritual accomplishments regarding the believer

We will be doing something differently than any of the above, however. We will talk more about the relationships between the items that are listed. For instance, what about who we have been made to be is directly tied to the other unfathomable riches that we have in Christ. In many cases, for example, being justified is listed separately from being redeemed, and being forgiven of our sins, and being in Christ. We have from Scripture, however:

Romans 3:24 (NAS)

“…being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus…”

Ephesians 1:7

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace…”

Colossians 1:14

“…in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins…”

Quickly, we see:

1. Being justified ‘declared righteous’ does not stand alone, but is only accomplished through the redemption (Romans 3:24).
2. Having the redemption and the associated forgiveness of sins (or trespasses) are in Him (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14).

* How does one become justified?
* How does one become redeemed?
* How does one become forgiven?
* How does one become ‘in Christ’?

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