

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #4

**“To Preach Among The Gentiles,
The Unfathomable Riches
Of Christ” (Eph. 3:8)**

PAUL'S PERSONAL STANDING

- One who was nurtured on Israel and the glory of the unique covenant people.
- One personally tutored by the post-crucifixion Jesus.
- The first one who really “got it.”
- One who understood the hope and intention of god for all people on earth.

WHAT ARE “THE RICHES OF CHRIST”?

**I. The physical cosmos belongs to Christ
and is totally at his disposal.**

John 1:1-5, Heb. 1:1-4, Col. 1:15-17, 2:3

WHY THE EARLY DISCIPLES
BELIEVED THIS: THEY HAD SEEN HIS
POWER OVER NATURE AND DEATH.

WHAT ARE “THE RICHES OF CHRIST”?

II. Christ is the master of the moral life:

Understands moral reality and order, and

Is able to bring people to moral goodness.

The utter failure of the classical world in
this regard.

WHAT ARE THE “RICHESS OF CHRIST”?

III. The security and glorious future of the individual human being in Christ.

“BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING”

Luke 12:22-33, Phil. 4:6-8, Matt. 18:10

“NEVER EXPERIENCE DEATH”!

John 8:51-52, 11:25-26, 2 Tim. 1:10

WHAT ARE “THE RICHES OF CHRIST”?

IV. The future of the created cosmos.

The incredible greatness and beauty of the physical cosmos.

Not a self-contained system, as we have seen. It is sustained by the power of God, not “cold, dark matter.”

There will be a new ‘heaven’ and a new earth. And a new Jerusalem
Rev. 21 and following.

Things Great Teachers Must Teach

- The nature of reality
- Who is “well-off”
 - Blessedness
 - The Good Life
- Who is a “really good” person?
- How to become a “really good” person

Jesus answers each of these in a manner far superior to anyone else— Plato, Buddha, Freud. Jesus is the smartest One ever BECAUSE HE IS FROM THERE!

TO US THIS GRACE IS GIVEN

**To preach to a pagan world the
unsearchable riches of Christ.**

“YOU COULD NOT HAVE WISHED TO BE
BORN AT A BETTER TIME THAN THIS,
WHEN EVERYTHING HAS BEEN LOST.”

(Simone Weil, *First and Last Notebooks*, p. 47)