

THE MYSTERY OF RICHES & SUFFERING

EPHESIANS 3:8-13

Eric M. Hine Millersville Bible Church December 13, 2020

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

Paradoxes of God's Plan:

- Paradox = _____.

1. Greatness is achieved by _____ (vv. 7-8).

“An individual is in constant danger of losing his/her effectiveness by coming to think of himself/herself as more than a servant...because everything that is of any value in our lives, including power for effective service, comes only from the Lord. Among the greatest dangers to ministry, and to all Christian living, are things that in the world's eyes are of supreme value – personal ambition, prestige, recognition, honor, reputation, and success.”

~ John MacArthur ~

2. True _____ are not the world's _____ (v. 8).

“The value we place on something determines the hardship we are willing to endure for it.”

~ Klyne Snodgrass ~

GOD'S RICHES GIVEN TO ALL BELIEVERS

- He chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless (1:4).
- Adoption as His children (1:5).
- His glorious grace, given to us in Christ (1:6).
- Redemption through His blood (1:7).
- Forgiveness of sins (1:7).
- Riches of His grace (1:7-8).
- He made known to us the mystery of His will (1:9).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit (1:13).
- Inheritance in Heaven (1:14).
- Being God's very own possession (1:14).

3. We (Christians) would be _____ with making these _____ evident to others (v. 8-10).

4. The _____ would be the most _____ institution on _____ (v. 10).

5. We (Christians) have _____ to the King of kings and Lord of lords (v. 12).

6. _____ produces _____ in your life and in the lives of others (v. 1, 13).

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18