

Let's read this - from v4 - 2:4-7 - **But GOD being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - (6) and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

That is an incredibly weighty thought. He shows GRACE in the first place, so later on He can SHOW GRACE. The Words that intro V7 make a PURPOSE statement here - the PURPOSE of GOD in giving us grace - which leads us to salvation (v6) is to GIVE US MORE GRACE throughout the endless ages.

This creates wonder in my heart/mind. We have nothing to relate to this. *If last year someone had come your way during the World Series and said, "I want to show you grace. You have been a horrible neighbor, you have been so mean to me, we don't get along, but I want to give you my tickets to the world series. Oh and they are VIP. Pretty much all access, short of the dugout. Go enjoy." You would have been like - wow, what GRACE. And it is. But not even that compares - because it ends. The experience ENDS. The series ends. Yes you have some memories, but once that last pitch was pitched, and the game was over, that was it.*

God's grace though actually gets us to MORE GRACE. We run out of ways to understand/illustrate this. Nothing compares. But there are things to be understood of all this.

I want to try though to logically explain this - I hope it makes sense. Because there are reasons for all this. Why is it necessary in the COMING AGES HE **SHOWS** US THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE?

1) What we know of God's grace now - is limited by faith. Note the word used - **in the coming ages He might SHOW** This word means He intends to PUT ON A DISPLAY. It will be a SHOW. This word in Greek was often used in courtroom settings

about a lawyer who PROVED his case. He SHOWED through evidence. It was CLEAR. It was completely beyond the shadow of a doubt.

Now don't get me wrong there is so much now we experience that IS REAL and every bit of it is WONDERFUL. But we know so little of GOD of Grace.

It is like this I could have everyone tell me about the OCEAN. Of how vast it is. How beautiful the sunset is, how soft the sand is, how beautiful the waves are, the shells that move up on shore from the tides coming in. And with every possible descriptive word, someone could tell me. I could understand it, and I could even be captivated by the truths they were telling me. But GOING to the OCEAN would give me a vastly fuller understanding and experience of it. I'd see it and be in awe. I'd hear the waves. I'd smell that OCEAN smell. I'd touch it.

All of this shows the difference between faith and sight. What we know of GOD now from His Word, our experience of HIM based on TRUTH is every bit real, but it is limited. In the COMING AGES HE IS GOING TO SHOW us IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF GRACE. Paul's reminding us of some great reality - we will experience MORE. It will exceed what now many of us know is already GREAT. Grace is great - we know it. We delight. How much more then?

2) Time binds us now. But this is all said to be **IN THE COMING AGES** - If the experience of GOD'S GRACE were limited to TIME, to THIS LIFE it would still be awesome. But that is the very point - IT CAN'T BE LIMITED.

DEATH cancels out everything in life. But that is the very point Paul is making here. Death does not cancel out God's grace. Much in life we ENJOY -*Marriage, Money, house, car, job, friends - Death cancels out a marriage. it cancels out the money you had in the bank. Death cancels out your ownership of that great house you may possess, or car...indeed everything.* It isn't the end of your experience of it - if you are a believer in CHRIST. it is in many ways the BEGINNING of it.

Time this metric we use to measure space between events - measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years... is INADEQUATE for GOD to be able to express what He has for His own.

I remember the first time I got onto an airplane as a kid. I was marveling over all. All these people in there with me, all the bags, all the seats. It was huge. And it was going to go up in the air. I marveled just looking at it, in it, looking out the window at the wings. And that was just on the runway. But being in an airplane on the ground is really not as exciting as TAKING OFF and FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.

Well, time is like the RUNWAY. But Eternity is the expression of GOD's GRACE coming our way. Time isn't adequate to fly, the same way the RUNWAY at an airport isn't adequate to express what a PLANE can do and to experience it all.

That is all because of this

3) What He is showing - **Immeasurable Riches of Grace**

If asked what GOD's Grace is - all of us could probably find some way to articulate it. it is His "undeserved favor" I remember learning as a kid. That is true. But that response is WOEFULLY inadequate in really grasping it all.

We have other ideas that begin to define how great it is - the song Amazing Grace. The author realized that Grace is a great stand alone word, but when we realize what it is we have to attach a word like Amazing with it - because it truly is UNLIKE anything.

It amazes us when we understand what has happened. God CHOSE US - sent Jesus, forgave, and forgives us. He loves us. He gives us provision. He grants us gifts. He gives us joy, and peace. He empowers us. He gives us HIS SPIRIT. All of it manifests grace. And so the very WORD means so much more than just a simple dictionary definition because so many things GOD does flow out of it.

And then Paul tags a few words on it here - he says **the RICHES of Grace**. That is a great way to define it right. God doesn't just have a

little bit. God doesn't run out. **You ever known a rich person. It is like - where is all their money, excess coming from.** That is what He is telling us. There is SO MUCH MORE of GOD's GRACE. He is RICH.

And lest we think there is a limit to His Riches - He used one further descriptive word here - **IMMEASURABLE**. This particular word is used 5 times in the New Testament. Each time by Paul. It all has reference to what GOD possesses whether His Glory, his Love or His Grace.

If you think we experience JOY now - you are right. But imagine - how much more to come? Immeasurable. We can't know in time, only ETERNITY is adequate to show IMMEASURABLE Riches of GOD's Grace.

4) Notice HOW JESUS ties into all this - If you hear nothing of what I already said, or say after this - please listen up. I am most passionate about this, and so challenged for Christians who are UNMOVED at this news. All God has to show us is said to be **IN CHRIST JESUS**.

I do believe foremost He is saying - God's grace is reserved for those who are IN CHRIST. That is who right now believe IN CHRIST, live IN CHRIST, trust IN CHRIST... If you are in CHRIST, you have already received GRACE and will receive this IMMEASURABLE GRACE.

I have further reason to believe Paul encourages to think another way of this - namely that Christ is everything God has for us throughout Eternity. That God's grace for us, the immeasurable nature, and riches that will be ours to be ENJOYED at all summed up and found only **IN CHRIST JESUS**. It means in ETERNITY all our attention, our affections, our hearts, minds will CENTER IN ON CHRIST. He is saying ALL THE GRACE GOD HAS FOR US FOREVER will be experienced IN CHRIST.

Why would I say this?

A few verses -

John 17:24 - this is Jesus praying here for His own, even for us
I desire that they also whom You have given me may be with me where I am to see my GLORY that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Those words - what Jesus desires for His own is to see His glory. Have you and I seen the glory of Christ? Yes and no. Yes, by faith we have. Those of us who believe. We have, but through the eye of faith.

But there is coming a day when I will see the GLORY of CHRIST. I will see it with my own eyes. You will see Him with your own eyes and recognize all HE's been telling us - HE IS GLORIOUS. He is BETTER. He is more beautiful. He is more wonderful than anything on earth. Any place you visit - He is better. Anything you possess, or could possess, HE IS BETTER. Anything you value - HE IS MORE VALUABLE. Anything you could possibly love - HE IS MORE LOVELY.

Isn't this the million dollar question in everyone's head - HOW IS HEAVEN GOING TO BE ANYTHING SATISFYING, ENJOYABLE? Forever is a long time! To which I say - Because of JESUS. God's grace flows through Him and centers our attention on Him. *your view that heaven will be boring exposes your view of God, namely that you think He is boring. The reason you assume He is boring - it is not God's fault - it's your fault.*

It's like the alphabet. If a kid is to learn it, sing the ABCs, he may enjoy that, but that really isn't the purpose of the alphabet. It is for communication. It is for reading (and writing). And once a kid learns that, it opens up his or her world. Suddenly the books on your shelf have meaning. And as they grow in vocabulary, the bigger books carry more significance. Knowledge grows, experience grows, opportunity grows.

David wrote something 1000 years before Christ came in the flesh, but that is every bit about Christ.

Note **Psalm 16:11** - ... **In Your Presence there is fullness of JOY, at Your RIGHT HAND are pleasures forevermore.**

Our million dollar question is answered right here. In the Presence of GOD there is no merger supply of JOY - it is a FULLNESS. So akin to the words of Paul - IMMEASURABLE RICHES of GRACE David too knows - FULLNESS OF JOY

Where are they - **at YOUR RIGHT HAND** - again this is the place of FAVOR. But I think we are invited to piece all this together, this side of the ascended CHRIST - where is CHRIST? AT THE RIGHT HAND. He is the ONE who EVER WILL SATISFY, fill us, be our PLEASURE our JOY.

What is it? It is everything Jesus mentioned - His GLORY. Seeing it. You will be pleased. I will be pleased. We will be entirely satisfied.

Does it seem outrageous to you? Consider this for a moment:

We all like traveling places. WE all enjoy visiting new locations. I bet we can all think of the most beautiful natural wonders we have ever seen. Lakes, Oceans, River, Waterfalls. Or maybe an island in some exotic location. Maybe wildlife, birds and fish, wild beasts. The beauty of the Mountains that captivated your heart. Or as mentioned something like the Grand Canyon. And while you and I have seen a lot in our lifetimes we still haven't seen it all. We have caught but a glimpse. It would take many many many many many lifetimes to experience the fullness of all THIS WORLD has to offer and excite us with.

That is like our relationship with CHRIST. We taste just a piece of Him now. We know but the fringes, the surface of the surface, but there are untold wonders and mysteries to be seen. That is the IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF GRACE - all to be seen IN CHRIST. But on another level we need to see this - If we are able to marvel at this world and we should it should lead us to think. If our experience of GRACE NOW is great, how much greater is it in THE AGE TO COME? And if this world is great, how much greater is the CREATOR OF THIS WORLD?

See this is what captivates my heart and mind - CHRIST and HIS GLORY. This is why I am always referring you back to the sign to my left

This is the point of it all
IF CHRIST WILL EVERY SATISFY US, in HEAVEN...FOREVER!!!
He is equally able to do so NOW! And we need to PRACTICE this ENJOYMENT OF HIM.

I speak to you who are **STRUGGLING in Habitual Sins**
-drunkenness, sexual sins, a craving for more money, or possessions at the expense of your walk with Christ and faith in Him, laziness, (school, job), words in marriage (not very affirming, loving)... See this is the solution to sin. Every sin is a pursuit after pleasure. But it is such that we go to lesser places to find it. Everything but Christ. no matter your sin - I don't just say stop, but STOP by filling yourself with CHRIST. Pursue HIM. Make HIM your treasure.

-get up early to seek this TREASURE - if immeasurable GRACE awaits us in the COMING AGES, they are still available now. Pursue them. Get up early to do so. **Free of distractions. Re-orient yourself at the beginning of the day.**

-give away earthly treasure - it quickly consumes our hearts. The less you have the better. Money is a danger. Give. 10% - a tithe. Why give it? 90% takes faith to live on. Don't have to wonder what to give. my heart isn't married to it all. and you don't have to wonder WHERE to give.

-Ask HIM For help. He wants to reveal Himself to you. He will. It isn't like getting a fire going by getting your lighter. It is more like a boys scout rubbing two sticks together. This is the way GOD delights to do it.

-point one another and others to Jesus. **Levi loves planes, but he rarely sees them. His eye is not keen. He is distracted by so many other lesser things. He doesn't know how to look up and see them. So I do for him and I point him to look up. When he does, I see some of the awe and wonder.** That is my job as a Christian. I want you to do that for me. That is why I ache for you all to be here on Sundays.

I spend time in the word and feel like I have something to say to point to HIM. I know John does. The songs we sing do. I want you meeting together because