

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE CRUD! 2 Corinthians 8:9

Int: Christmas has become crusted over with centuries of traditional varnish and commercial grime so that the true meaning and deeper beauty of the day cannot shine through! The text tells the plain facts about Christmas! Under the crud is a picture of the Lord Jesus'

PLENTY "He was rich"

In all the dateless calendar of eternity past there was never a time when the Lord Jesus was not rich.

He was **RICH IN ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**. What God was, he was, coequal and coeternal with the Father.

He was **RICH IN THE LOVE AND HONOR OF HEAVEN**. He was the object of the Father's love before the world was (Jn 17:26) and the darling of heaven. The highest praise was his.

He was **RICH IN POSSESSIONS**. All was his because he made it!!

In eternity past he was rich beyond all measure!

POVERTY "Yet for your sake he became poor"

The Lord Jesus was born and lived in poverty.

He became **POOR IN FORM**. God became a man.

He became **POOR IN THINGS**. Born with nothing, he lived with nothing and died with nothing.

He became **POOR IN REPUTATION**. Whispers of illegitimacy followed him all his life (Mk 6:3; Jn 8:39). Surely messiah could not come from such an insignificant place as Nazareth (Jn 1:45). They called him a drunk and a glutton (Mt 11:19), accused him of sedition and crucified him between criminals stripped naked in public. Poor!

PURPOSE "So that you by his poverty might become rich"

The Lord Jesus made himself poor to make you rich in things money cannot buy! I do not have a lot of money but I have great riches.

He has made me rich in heritage. He made me a child of God and an heir of the King of kings. I am rich indeed.

He has made me rich in companionship. In him I have a friend who will never fail, leave nor forsake me. I am rich indeed.

He has made me rich in peace. I am at peace with God and with myself. Some would give millions for one moment of the peace I have in abundance. I am rich indeed.

He has made me rich in possessions. I have a home in heaven, a city not made with human hands, a place to which I will go to live with him and share what is his for all eternity. I am rich indeed.

Con: Under the crud Christmas is the story of an immensely wealthy God who gave it all up in order to make sin-stricken men rich! "That you...might become rich" is subjunctive in mood. These riches are potential possessions, not automatic benefits. To get them, a person must receive Jesus as Lord and Savior! Have you? Will you? Now?