

His Grace is Our Gain!

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ did not begin on the cross, or in the garden, or in the manger. It began in heaven when He laid aside His glory and consented to come to earth. He left the abode of God for the abode of man and exchanged exaltation for humiliation, magnitude for servitude, a radiant crown for a rugged cross, and a hallowed throne for a hollowed tomb. As Paul wrote, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).



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Isn't that a wonderful thought? Christ was rich and then became poor so we could become rich. But what exactly does that mean? Perhaps we have a divine commentary in Philippians 2:6-8: "Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Notice that Christ "was in the form of God" and had "equality with God." It is in this sense that He was rich. He shared in all the glory and majesty of Godhood before coming to earth (John 17:5). Then we see that Christ "made himself nothing," "took the form of a servant," "was born in the likeness of men," and "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross." It is in this sense that He became poor. And why did He do it? So that we might become rich spiritually (Ephesians 1:3).

Paul refers to this great sacrifice as "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" in the Corinthians text. That is because it was undeserved kindness on His part. He didn't have to become poor for us, He chose to do it. He chose to walk the dusty streets of earth so we could walk the golden streets of heaven. He chose to wear a crown of thorns on His head so we could wear a crown of righteousness on our head. He chose to die physically so we could live spiritually. His grace is our gain! **His grace is our gain!**