

Series On the Unseen Things

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UNSEEN TREASURES

Text: Ephesians 1:7-12

INTRODUCTION: You might be richer than you think. I recently found some money... a \$20 bill... in a coat that I had not worn for a long time. I was twenty dollars richer than I thought I was. In Christ, we are richer than we think! God help us to cash in on what is ours in Him!

Notice: "*riches*" v. 7 = vast wealth; "*abounded*" v.8 = *above and beyond*." We are spiritual millionaires! Notice all the unseen treasures in the previous verses: *election* (v. 4), *predestination* (v. 5), *adoption* (v. 5), *acceptance* (v. 6), and now. . .

1. THE REDEMPTION OF OUR SOULS - Verse 7

"**redemption**" = to liberate by the payment of a ransom.

- A. The Person of Redemption - "in Whom" cf. "in" through Ch.
- B. The Possession of Redemption - "we have" /now/not distant
- C. The power of Redemption - "blood" /cf. 1 Peter 1:18,19

2. THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS - Verse 7

"**forgiveness**" is used interchangeably with "remission" in the New Testament.

- A. The Concept of Forgiveness - "to carry away, to remove"
- B. The Connection of Forgiveness - w/redemption; Matt. 26:28
- C. The Celebration of Forgiveness - "sins" = faults

3. THE REVELATION OF OUR STATUS Verses 8-12

"**will**" = design, determination / big word in Ch. 1:1;5;9;11

- A. Our Insight - The God who knows all "*hath made known*"
- B. Our Inclusion - Gentiles brought into the big plan - v. 10
- C. Our Inheritance - a predetermined allotment in Him! v. 11 We're somebody in Jesus

CONCLUSION: A preacher friend inherited the old home place. His dad had tried to talk to him 2 or 3 times before his death, but my friend changed the subject. After living there for several years, \$30,000 was found hidden in an old freezer chest, no doubt what dad wanted to talk to him about. We're richer than we think.

OUR UNSEEN COMFORTER

Text - John 14:16-26

INTRODUCTION: I'm a big sports fan and especially enjoy the Olympics. I enjoy the patriotism, discipline, and competition that is a part of the Olympic events. Often an athlete is driven by an unseen force, sometimes his or her own failures, or the death of a close relative or supporter.

*Christians are not driven by such psychological motivations. Any success must be due to the **Unseen Person** and ministry of the Holy Spirit of God. He constrains and comforts us in all of life!

1. The Unseen Presence Of The Holy Spirit (v.16-18)

***He is a definite, real, vital, divine Person; not a spook!**

A. An Accompanying Presence - v.16

"Comforter" - "paracletos" = along side of

"another" = of like kind; Jesus; other self; His returned spirit!

B. An Abiding Presence - v.17

"abide" - "meno" = abide, remain, dwell, continue; not temporary guest!;

"comfortless" - v.18, "orphanos" = not orphans!

2. The Unseen Position Of The Holy Spirit (v.19-25)

***He is the link, the neck between the Head and the body**

A. The Heavenly Connection - Infinite

v.19, 20 (in Father; in Him; in us/intimate v.21 (cf. Phil. 3:10).

B. The Holy Communion - "manifest" = disclosure;

Get in on the Divine; How? an inside job, v.23./ 3 questions (14: 5; 8; 22).

3. The Unseen Profession Of The Holy Spirit (v.26)

"teach" v. 26 = to hold discourse with others; explain, expound

A. A Different Relationship

In house training/not outside in, but inside out; not group, but individually; not bits, but all.

B. A Divine Remembrance

v.26; cf. Eph. 1:17/entire gamut of divine revelation/full of His subject & can communicate! "*He doesn't bring a new gospel, but brings understanding of the old!*" (Matthew Henry).

Conclusion: Many computer programs have a teach/text feature (F1) which is a built in how-to guide for those who are new to the program. Without having to go to the big books, you can follow the guidelines on screen. The Holy Spirit is our Unseen Comforter!

The Holy Ghost and The Believer

Read John 14:16-17. The third person of the Holy Trinity is the Holy Spirit. The Father is the Holy Father, the Son is the Holy Son, and the Holy Spirit is a Holy Spirit. It is no wonder that in both Isa. 6:3 and Rev. 4:8 that praise is directed toward the Lord Himself with three holies—"holy...holy...holy." He has a very special relationship to the believer. Without the work of the Holy Spirit where would we be, in what kind of condition would we be right now?

I. He Convicts Of Sin (See Jn.16:8,12). Without conviction of sin, no person ever comes to God. Man needs a Savior! It is His work to convince us that we are in need of being born again.

II. He Regenerates The One Who Believes (Jn.3:5-7 and I Jn.5:7). Faith in God and His sovereign ability to save, makes new creatures out of us when we call upon His name (Rom.10:13-2 Cor. 5:17).

III. He Indwells The People Of God (Jn. 14:17). Jesus clearly stated, "He shall be in you." It is good to have the Lord "with us" but it is even better to have Him "in us." That suggests that He is very near and accessible to the children of God.

IV. He Seals The Saved (Eph. 1:13). Men have always wanted assurances that what is promised is received. A seal indicates security, ownership, authenticity, and authority. Heaven is sure for the saved!

V. He Comforts The Troubled (Jn. 14:16,18). The word "Comforter" comes from two Greek words that mean to "call alongside." He consoles us when all other help fails.

VI. He Guides God's Children (Jn. 16:13). He guides in many ways but the primary thing He does is to guide us into truth. There is so much error on every hand, God's people need to know truth.

4 Reminders of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Text: John 14: 16

Following is a basic outline that focuses on four areas of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is just a different way of looking at it. Please realize these four areas are only four out of many that could be listed.

1. The Restraining Ministry of the Holy Spirit - v17

- He is not received by the world. He leads us away from the world and deeper and deeper into the Christian life.
- He is the "Holy" Spirit and where He is, there is purity and power at work. He comes bringing the grace to live out the righteousness we have been given. Therefore, because of His presence, sin is held from landing its full blow.

2. The Retraining Ministry of the Holy Spirit - v17

- He is the Spirit of Truth. He begins to work in our lives and exposes the lies we have believed and leads us into truth.
- This refers to the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:1-2); He empowers and teaches us as we feed on God's Word.

3. The Retaining Ministry of the Holy Spirit - v17

- He dwells in us. He is present with us. He brings to us all we need from the riches that are ours in Christ. We know Him and are known by Him.
- Jesus said the Holy Spirit would bring things to our remembrance. He helps us retain the knowledge we gain in our Christian life.

4. The Remaining Ministry of the Holy Spirit - v16

- Jesus say He would be with us forever. John 14:16
- We are sealed unto the day of Christ's return. Our adoption manifests through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. He leads us into obedient sonship because those who are led by the Spirit are God's sons.
- Jesus said that He would be always unto the end of the world (age). This is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ within us enabling us to carry out his commission to go, disciple, baptize and teach all nations. (Matt. 28:19-20)

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The Work of the Holy Spirit

Activity	Description of the Activity	Scripture Reference
<i>Regenerating</i>	Through the ministry of the Spirit a person is born again, receives eternal life, and is renewed.	John 3:3-8; 6:63; Titus 3:5
<i>Indwelling</i>	The Spirit abides in the believer. Without the Spirit's indwelling the person does not belong to Christ.	John 14:17; Rom. 8:9,11; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19
<i>Baptizing</i>	Believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit by Christ, uniting them all into one body.	Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:13
<i>Sealing</i>	God seals believers with the Holy Spirit, providing a statement of ownership and guarantee of final redemption.	2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; cf. Rom. 8:16
<i>Filling</i>	Believers are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. The filling ministry of the Spirit can be divided into the general filling relating to spiritual growth and maturation and to special capacities given by the Spirit for special tasks for God.	Eph. 5:18; cf. Acts 4:8; 4:31; 6:3; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9
<i>Guiding</i>	Believers are commanded to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. The Spirit keeps the believer from enslavement to legalism and also provides discipline and direction for the Christian life.	Gal. 5:16, 25; cp. Acts 8:29; 13:2; 15:7-9; 16:6; Rom. 8:14
<i>Empowering</i>	The indwelling Spirit provides victory in the Christian life, development of Christian fruit, and the ability to win against the works of Satan.	Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:17-18, 22-23
<i>Teaching</i>	Jesus promised that when the Spirit came he would lead believers into truth. The Spirit illuminates the mind of the believer to the revelation of God's will through his Word.	John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27

OUR UNSEEN WORLD

(1 Cor. 2:9-16)

Introduction: There are all kinds of worlds in this building right now. For instance, if we had a radio, we could experience the *electronic* world. With a microscope, we could discover that the *germ* world is very near. Holding a telescope out a side door, we could see the *astronomical* world.

There is also a *spiritual* realm, a divine sphere, an *unseen* world present right now. This holy arena is for the saints, and can be a vital part of our daily living.

1. Examining The Unseen World

*It is unseen, but some "things" are described in this division

- A. It is a divine world - v.9 "prepared"; v.10 "things of God"
- B. It is a deep world - v.10 ".deep"=of depth; Spirit searched!
- C. It is a discoverable world - v. 10 "But"; v.1 1-14 "discerned"

*We are not limited to the material sphere! Another world!

2. Entering The Unseen World

*The Holy Ghost brings us into this spiritual sphere.

- A. The Spirit is the Conductor - v.10 "revealed"
- B. The Spirit is the Coordinator - v.10-12 "searcheth"; "of God"
- C. The Spirit is the Communicator - v.13 "teacheth"

*Only Eliezer could bring Rebekkah to his master's world

3. Experiencing The Unseen World

*Illus. We are like a radio/To experience this world:

- A. We must be turned on - regeneration; conversion
- B. We must be tuned in - right frequency; other stations?
- C. We must be toned up or down - grumbling or whining?

*We can get in, get in on all, & enjoy all God is doing!

Conclusion: Elijah is a type of Christ; Elisha is a type of the believer. The mantle is a type of the Holy Spirit. Using his mantle, Elijah took Elisha out of one world into another world. Elisha experienced the divine, and by the same mantle, brought that world back into his world. May this be our experience, as well.

OUR UNSEEN HEAD

(1 Pet. 1:8, 9)

Introduction: I said to our middle daughter (about 4 yrs. old) one night, "Why can't you go to sleep?" She responded, "I want somebody in the room with me!" I preached to her, "Honey, the Lord's with you." Her plea was, "But I want somebody I can see!"

*text - Christ hasn't been seen in past/in present

*been seen in OT/Gal.4:4/to be seen - 1:7;13/ right now unseen!

1. Unseen. But Not Unreal

*believing is seeing/faith, not sight; Him, Who is invisible!

A. The reality of His person - titles(1:2,3,7, 13) traits(birth, etc.)

B. The reality of His power - Ex. electricity/wind/tug on string

2. Unseen. But Not Unknown

*to believe on Him is to know Him/Jn.8:32;I0:14;I Jn.5:13

A. Can be known individually - "ye; your"/1:14/1:18/2:25

B. Can be known intimately - "believing"=continual tense

3. Unseen. But Not Unloved

*love for, of, and to God *to know Him is to love Him

A. The cause of loving Him - Rom. 5:5; 1Jn.4: 19

B. The course of loving Him - 1:6/Ex. Napoleon's soldiers

4. Unseen, But Not Unconcerned

A. He's concerned about our situations - suffering; cf. 5:7

B. He's concerned about our supplies - joy; glory/Jireh!

*"unspeakable"=unexpressable/ "full of glory"=glorified /flowers

5. Unseen, But Not Unfaithful

A. Faithful to His character - His nature/His promises

B. Faithful to His children - "your faith"; "your souls"; Phil. 1:6

Conclusion: Rebekkah had never seen Isaac, but she loved him, and longed to see him. We've never seen Jesus, but we love Him, and long to see Him. If she "lighted" off her camel (very

unlady-like) when she saw Isaac, I refuse to predict how we will respond when we see Christ! What a day that will be!

UNSEEN MERCIES

TEXT: Lamentations 3:22, 23

INTRODUCTION: I'm sure you have said, or heard someone say, "I've never seen anything like that in my life!" When it comes to God's mercies, I must admit, "I've never seen one, and wouldn't know what one looks like." However, blessed be God, I've experienced His mercies on numerous occasions, and exalt them now. (Definition of mercies = loving-kindness (throughout the Old Testament).

1. THE FACT OF GOD'S UNSEEN MERCIES

- A. Their factual origin - of God/from God/as real as God
- B. Their factual operation - "not consumed"

2. THE FULNESS OF GOD'S UNSEEN MERCIES

- A. They are plural - not just one mercy
- B. They are plenteous - multiple - "all the flowers in God's garden are double. There is no single mercy! (John Bunyan)

3. THE FORTRESS OF GOD'S UNSEEN MERCIES

- A. They hide us - Israel failed/walls failed/not His compassion
- B. They help us - not determination, family, church, preaching "not spend; they are never used up; as the spring ever running, as the sun ever shining, they never fail" (John Trapp)

4. THE FRESHNESS OF GOD'S UNSEEN MERCIES

New = fresh

- A. New in their differences - no snowflake alike, sizes, weights
- B. New in the deliverances =-manifestation / weapons / power

5. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD'S UNSEEN MERCIES

- A. They are constant - "every" = each and every! "Surely" -Ps. 23:6
- B. They are conquering - "morning" = strength of day. Jeremiah in rubbish, saying, "Great is Thy faithfulness!"

CONCLUSION: A stranger in the night paid the complaining ferryboat driver for the ride. Thinking it was stone, hay and dirt, the driver cast it into the river. In the morning sun, he realized he had been paid with a gold nugget and gold dust. Don't take His mercies lightly!