

Message Two
Christ—the Unsearchable One

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:8

Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.

I. Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, the second of the Divine Trinity—John 1:1-2, 18; Matt. 28:19.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.
John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

II. He is self-existing, ever-existing, and coinhering with the Father and the Spirit in eternity.

III. He is, with the Father and the Spirit, the only God—John 1:1; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8.

John 1:1 See I.
Rom. 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
Heb. 1:8 But of the Son, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

IV. He is the Creator (v. 10), and all things were created through Him (John 1:3; Col. 1:16a), cohere in Him (v. 17), and will be an inheritance unto Him as the Heir (v. 16b; Heb. 1:2; Rom. 11:34-36).

Heb. 1:10 And, “You in the beginning, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands.”
John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being.
Col. 1:16a Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities.
Col. 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him.
Col. 1:16b All things have been created through Him and unto Him.
Heb. 1:2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe.
Rom. 11:34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?
Rom. 11:35 Or who has first given to Him, and it will be repaid to him?
Rom. 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

V. In time He became a man through His incarnation, a God-man having both divinity and humanity as His nature—John 1:1, 14; Heb. 2:14.

John 1:1 See I.
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

VI. He is the Firstborn of all creation—Col. 1:15b.

Col. 1:15b Who is...the Firstborn of all creation.

VII. He is the effulgence of God’s glory and the impress of God’s substance—Heb. 1:3a.

Heb. 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance.

VIII. He is the embodiment of God—Col. 2:9.

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

IX. He is the image of the invisible God—1:15a.

Col. 1:15a Who is the image of the invisible God.

X. He lived in His humanity on the earth to express God for thirty-three and a half years—He is God manifested in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:16.

1 Tim. 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

XI. He is the faithful Witness of God—Rev. 1:5.

Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood.

XII. He is the tabernacle of God as God's movable dwelling place among men—John 1:14.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

XIII. He is the temple of God as God's established dwelling place on earth—2:19-21.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?

John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.

XIV. He is the light of the world—8:12.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

XV. He died an all-inclusive death through which He crucified Satan—the old serpent (3:14; Heb. 2:14)—sin (Rom. 8:3; John 1:29), the world (12:31), the fallen man with his flesh (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20), the old creation (represented by the old fallen man), and the law with its ordinances (Rom. 10:4; Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:15) for the accomplishment of God's eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12) and released His divine life from the shell of His humanity to be dispensed into His believers (John 12:24; 3:15).

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

Rom. 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom. 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes.

Col. 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

- Heb. 9:12 And not through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, obtaining an eternal redemption.
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

XVI. He resurrected from among the dead (Matt. 28:6-7; 1 Cor. 15:45b), and through His resurrection He in His humanity was designated to be the firstborn Son of God (Rom. 1:4; 8:29; Acts 13:33), became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b), and regenerated with His resurrection life all the people chosen by God before the foundation of the world (1 Pet. 1:2-3; Eph. 1:4).

- Matt. 28:6 He is not here, for He has been raised, even as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.
- Matt. 28:7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has been raised from the dead, and behold, He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.
- 1 Cor. 15:45b The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- Rom. 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.
- Acts 13:33 That God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You."
- 1 Pet. 1:2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- 1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- Eph. 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love.

XVII. He ascended to the heavens, and in His ascension He was crowned and enthroned to be:

- A. The Lord of all men and all things to rule over the whole universe—Acts 10:36.
- Acts 10:36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel in announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (this One is Lord of all).
- B. Christ—the Anointed of God—to accomplish God's economy—2:36.
- Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.
- C. The Ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:5) to arrange the situations of the world and the environment of God's chosen people so that they may be saved by Him as the Savior who will be received by all His believers as their everything—Acts 5:31.
- Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood.
- Acts 5:31 This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- D. The Head of the church to take care of the church as His Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 5:29-30.
- Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
- Eph. 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.

E. The Paraclete in heaven before God to take care of all the cases and needs of His members (1 John 2:1) and the One who is realized by His Spirit as the Paraclete in His members (John 14:16-20).

- 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

F. The heavenly Minister to minister heaven into His believers to make them the heavenly citizens—Heb. 8:2; Phil. 3:20.

- Heb. 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
- Phil. 3:20 For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

G. The great High Priest in the heavens to take care of His believers' needs, intercede for them, and save them to the uttermost—Heb. 4:14-15; 7:25-27.

- Heb. 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.
- Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.
- Heb. 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
- Heb. 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,
- Heb. 7:27 Who does not have daily need, as the high priests do, to offer up sacrifices first for his own sins and then for those of the people; for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

H. The Mediator of the new covenant, bequeathed by Him to His believers through His death, to execute it—8:6; 9:15.

- Heb. 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted upon better promises.
- Heb. 9:15 And because of this He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that, death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who have been called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

I. The surety of the better covenant to be its guarantee—7:22.

- Heb. 7:22 By so much Jesus has also become the surety of a better covenant.

XVIII. He is the Shepherd of God's flock, the door for them to come out of Judaism, and the pasture for them to feed on—John 10:11, 14, 16, 9.

- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- John 10:14 I am the good Shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me.
- John 10:16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must lead them also, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock, one Shepherd.
- John 10:9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and go out and shall find pasture.

XIX. He is the resurrection, the life, the way, and the reality—11:25; 14:6.

- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

XX. He is the Bridegroom who has the bride—3:29a.

John 3:29a He who has the bride is the bridegroom.

XXI. He is the power of God and the wisdom to His believers from God: righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—1 Cor. 1:24, 30.

1 Cor. 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

XXII. He is the Passover for the believers to pass through God's judgment—5:7.

1 Cor. 5:7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.

XXIII. He is the spiritual food and the spiritual rock flowing with the living water for God's people—10:3-4; John 6:35; 4:10, 14.

1 Cor. 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,

1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

XXIV. He is the Body (1 Cor. 12:12) and all the members of the Body—the new man (Col. 3:10-11).

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

XXV. He is the firstfruits, the second man, and the last Adam—1 Cor. 15:20, 23, 47, 45.

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor. 15:23 But each one in his own order: the firstfruits, Christ; then those who are Christ's at His coming

1 Cor. 15:47 The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man is out of heaven.

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

XXVI. He is the Firstborn from the dead to be the Head of the Body—Col. 1:18.

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things.

XXVII. He is God's allotted portion to the saints—v. 12.

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light.

XXVIII. He is the body (the reality) of all the positive things to God's people—2:16-17.

Col. 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

Col. 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

XXXIX. He is the life of His believers and the One whom they live and magnify—3:4; Phil. 1:20-21.

- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

XXX. He is the Lamb accomplishing God's redemption and the Lion fighting for God's kingdom—Rev. 5:5-6.

- Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev. 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

XXXI. He is the opener of the seals of the secrets of this age—v. 5.

- Rev. 5:5 See above.

XXXII. He is the believers' hope of glory—Col. 1:27.

- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

XXXIII. He is the morning star who will appear to His overcomers before His coming back to the earth—Rev. 2:28.

- Rev. 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.

XXXIV. He is the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings to appear to the world—Mal. 4:2.

- Mal. 4:2 But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.

XXXV. His riches dispensed into His saints are unsearchable—Eph. 3:8.

- Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.

XXXVI. He is the Savior coming back to:

A. Transfigure His believers—Phil. 3:21.

- Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

B. Judge His believers to discern who among them should be rewarded with the kingdom and its enjoyment as a reward for one thousand years and who among them should be disciplined in the kingdom age, thus missing the kingdom as a reward—2 Cor. 5:10.

- 2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

C. Marry His overcomers as His bride in the millennial age—Rev. 19:7.

- Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

D. Defeat Antichrist and his armies—vv. 19-21.

- Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev. 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the

beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Rev. 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

E. Be received by the remnant of the Jews—Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:26.

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplications; and they will look upon Me, whom they have pierced; and they will wail over Him with wailing as for an only son and cry bitterly over Him with bitter crying as for a firstborn son.

Rom. 11:26 And thus all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come out of Zion; He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

F. Judge the nations—the living people (Acts 10:42)—on His throne of glory (Matt. 25:31).

Acts 10:42 And He has charged us to proclaim to the people and solemnly testify that this is the One who was designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

Matt. 25:31 But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, at that time He will sit on the throne of His glory.

XXXVII. He will be the King to rule over the earth with His overcomers—Rev. 20:4, 6.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

XXXVIII. He will judge all the dead people (Acts 10:42) at His great white throne (Rev. 20:11-12).

Acts 10:42 And He has charged us to proclaim to the people and solemnly testify that this is the One who was designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

Rev. 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose face earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened; and another scroll was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by the things which were written in the scrolls, according to their works.

XXXIX. In the New Jerusalem (21:1—22:5) He will be:

Rev. 21:1—22:5 Omitted.

A. The Husband of God's redeemed people as His wife in eternity—21:2.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

B. The temple with God—v. 22.

Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

C. The lamp with God as the light in Him—v. 23.

Rev. 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

D. The Lamb-God on the throne to rule over the new heaven and new earth—22:1.

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

E. The tree of life nourishing the entire New Jerusalem—v. 2.

Rev. 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.