

December 8, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

There's a deep, rumbling, groaning echo of sadness when we think about what it meant for God the Father to send His Son from heaven. John 3:17 gives us a hint of this: *"For God did not send His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."*

The original Greek word "send" could be translated, "He did not *send off* his Son into the world." When Christ was "sent off," it meant separation between the Father and His beloved Son. He "sent Him off" to save the world, the verse says, and yet the Father knew that the world would thank Him for His act of loving mercy by buffeting the Son, abusing Him, murdering Him. Can you imagine how the Father had to feel, when He "sent off" His lovely Son?

And don't take lightly the cost of Christmas to Christ the Son. Second Corinthians 8:9 gives us this tender explanation of the cost: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: although He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich."*

"By His poverty!" How poor did Christ become?

First, our glorious Second Person of the Godhead became a baby – a vulnerable, human baby – dependent on Joseph and Mary to feed and clothe and protect Him. A baby has nothing.

Second, He grew up as a "nobody," a man *"of no reputation"* (Philippians 2:7, KJV). Throughout eternity past, all heaven had adored and worshiped Him. Suddenly on earth, His true identity was unknown; His claims were discounted. People even called Him a blasphemer or (worse) a demoniac!

Third, He was nailed to a cross, bearing all the sin of the world, and rejected completely by His own, beloved, eternal Abba.

Oh, the cost of Christmas to Christ the Son! Don't take it lightly!

And yet He endured it all *"for the joy that lay before Him"* (Hebrews 12:2). The joy of making you rich! The joy of forgiving your sins and reconciling you to the Father! The joy of providing you with access to the riches of God's glory through prayer! The joy of giving you a loving family of God! The joy of opening for you the doors of heaven and lavishing on you His love and care until you get there!

Praise God for Christmas! Praise God that He was willing to pay the cost – every last penny of it! Praise God for His incredible grace! It truly is, for us...

Great Riches At Christ's Expense!