Dear Open Door Family,

Carol and I are so thankful for the privilege of serving the Lord Jesus here at Open Door Bible Church. We are humbled that God can use us and we are humbled that the Open Door Family has given us that opportunity. As we received the special gift from the church family, and the many individual cards and notes of appreciation, we can only say with all our hearts thank you. You have all been a rich blessing to us in so many ways. This verse from 2 Corinthians is not one we normally think of as a Christmas verse. But when you read it carefully, it is an amazing summary of God's gift to us.

2 Corinthians 8:6 *(JBP) Do you remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of us all? He was RICH BEYOND OUR TELLING, yet He became poor for your sakes so that HIS poverty might make you rich.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 *(NLT) You know the GENEROUS GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty HE COULD MAKE YOU RICH.*

Philippians 2:6-8 *(JBP) ...He, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to His prerogatives as God's equal, but stripped Himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man. And, having become man, He humbled Himself by living a life of UTTER OBEDIENCE, even to the extent of dying, and the death He died was the death of a common criminal.*

If Grace means all the riches of God at the expense of Christ Jesus then this verse is a great definition for Grace. It also shows us clearly that for us to receive God's grace Jesus left ALL the splendor and glory of Heaven behind and took on ALL the limitations of being human. One author commented on the verse in Corinthians this way: "*From the splendor of heaven Christ came to the squalor of earth. The Incarnation was an incomprehensible renunciation of spiritual and material glory. The One who was rich, who had everything, became poor, making Himself nothing. He assumed mankind's debt of sin and paid for it with His life.*" Bible Knowledge Com Now that is truly Grace; what an amazing Savior we have.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for leaving Heaven for me. Lord, I can't even begin to imagine the limitation it must have been to take on human form and live like we do. But to go on and die for us and pay for our sin - that truly is beyond anything I will ever truly understand. Thank You Lord Jesus for coming to earth so humbly - and for dying so willingly for me!

Pastor Mark Kieft

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