

Forgotten Treasure
Galatians 1:1-5

A homeless man living on the streets of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia fled police who were bringing him news of a \$6-million-dollar inheritance. Tomas Martinez, 67, apparently thought the police were about to arrest him for his alcohol and drug habits. The man disappeared without a trace, causing Bolivian newspapers to speak of him in 2000 as a "new millionaire paradoxically not knowing his fortune". The inheritance came to Mr Martinez from his ex-wife, Ines Gajardo Olivares, who inherited the money herself from family members.

My concern is that many Christians live the same way. Inheritors of much yet aware of little.

Today we are going to examine **5 treasures of Christian truth** so you know exactly what God has provided for you. This will be an opportunity for us to take an inventory and examine just how splendid God's goodness is. And if you have never been born again, this will be an opportunity for you to enter into God's family and share in the riches. These 5 treasures are for Christians and God has made a way for all who come to Him to share in this.

5 treasures of Christian truth, Did you know you had these? The church so often lives in poverty yet God has blessed them with every spiritual blessing. I challenge you understand these treasures and to not bury them once we leave, I am calling you to live different than the culture around us and what you will hear today may seem foreign because what the world say and what the Bible says are two totally different things. We live in an age that respects largeness and numbers and you come here to listen to someone preach and it may not seem that persuasive because after all at UCSD they don't say what I'm saying and on CNN they don't say what I'm saying and pop radio don't say what I'm saying but I want you to know its not me who's talking, I am teaching you from an ancient text, a sacred Text and just maybe the reason none of these other sources can give you answers is that they are not the true, final and ultimate source and the Bible is. And if you want the numbers and the largeness don't look to me or just this room, because what I am going to say today is preached the world over and it has been preach for millennia, empires have been raised up and empires have fallen yet the Word of God stands. It has been burned, banned and blasphemed yet God's truth marches on. I ask you Christian to join the heritage of saints and think, dwell and then live out these 5 treasures of Christian truth. I ask you to trust God in the face of your fears, in the

face of your foes and in the face of your fallings. So let us look at these 5 treasures of Christian truth and know just how blessed we are.

1. The first treasure is God's messengers- apostolic word, the Bible
2. The second treasure is God's members- the body of Christ
3. The third treasure is God's message-grace and peace
4. The fourth treasure is God's means- Victory in Jesus Christ
5. The fifth treasure is God's motive- His glory

We will be in Galatians 1:1-5

1. The first treasure of Christian truth is God's messengers. 1:1 and ultimately the Word of God

We see the first treasure is the apostle Paul. You might be thinking to yourself how is the apostle Paul a treasure? Well, God must have wanted him for something, because he was chosen to be an apostle- not from men nor through man- but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, and in case you were wondering, yes, the same God the Father who raised Jesus from the dead. God makes no mistakes in his appointments. Jesus knew exactly who his twelve apostle were to be including Judas and he knew that the apostle Paul was going to be an appointed apostle sent to the gentiles. We see Paul's calling to apostleship in 1:11-16 and again in Acts 26:12-23 Paul explains his calling, conversion and appointment to apostleship.

How important are the apostles and apostolic teaching? If we are not careful we can assume the sum total of Christianity is to be nice, believe in Jesus to get out of hell and then have a nice day. You are on your own to deal with anxiety, kids, money, purpose, relationships, addiction, and the list goes on. The assumption is that what the apostles taught is great but not really relevant to everyday life. But that is not the case we are told in 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence. However, we must be careful too, the Bible is not your personal therapy book it is a revelation from God to man about how man can be made right and live before a holy God. So how important are the apostles? 1 Thess 2:13 reads, "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." The apostle's teaching is the Word of God. We also see in Acts 2:42 that the early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles teaching. And we can say without hesitation that the whole of the New Testament is the apostles' teaching. What we read in the New Testament is what the apostles taught.

Does your Christianity have apostolic teaching? Not someone claiming to be an apostle today but true New Testament thinking. Is your Christianity framed by the Word of God? If your religious experience is not framed by the Bible then you are not following Christianity, you may use that word to describe yourself but it's not Christianity. If you are not letting the Word of God guide, govern, correct and comfort you, you are burring your treasure. Closing the lid on unfathomable riches. You are pushing aside what God has given to you in an attempt to guide yourself, govern yourself, correct yourself and comfort yourself. That is called foolish pride, God's treasures are for the humble not the haughty. It is out of God's mercy and kindness that He has given us a clear, unadulterated Word, that springs forth with the words of life to quench any soul and to grow life where death once reigned. The treasure can be turned to terror for those who do not heed it. Countless have fallen because of they have rejected the simplest truth: that the Bible is the Word of God. The Word of life, the only source of direct revelation on planet earth today. Without it you will perish and without it you will live as a spiritual beggar not realizing the meal prepared for you.

Paul's apostleship was not man made, there have been plenty of people the world over who have been give positions, responsibilities and tasks but Paul was distinctly appointed not by a counsel, delegation or committee...

Paul's commission is from heaven 1:12- (revelation not reason alone)

Paul did not go to a job interview, send his resume out or petition someone for the task. In fact Paul tells us exactly what he was doing in Acts 26:16-18 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵ And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Paul was persecuting the church and then bam! His world is flipped upside down and he is appointed an apostle. Paul was called an apostle from God the father, literally, God the Father- "the one having raised Him *from dead*." The resurrection was from the dead, not meaninglessness, not obscurity. To be dead means to not be alive in any physical sense, to have your heart stop, your blood refuses to flow and you are lifeless, Jesus was dead, deceased, no longer alive and God made Him alive again. Paul

was appointed an apostle by this Jesus who was raised from the dead and the God who raised Him from the dead. What appointment to position could be higher than that. Both Jesus Christ and God the Father, the God who literally raised Jesus from dead appointed Paul an apostle. His message is then to be regarded as the premier message, Paul is a holy messenger with a personal, delegated authority from God to proclaim accurately the Christian gospel.

God did not leave His message to chance or man's own invention
 Let us not disregard the Word of God, it is a treasure of immeasurable wealth given to us by a gracious and good God. If you have been living in spiritual poverty, is it because you have buried this treasure? The Word of God.

And there are some of you who have never considered the Bible to be the source of truth, I will tell you that it is, it is the only book on planet earth that has a true message from God, it is an ancient book written by God's appointed people and what was written has not been altered, you can trust it to be exactly what the ancient writers penned down and what they wrote is the Word of God. Are you exhausted trying to read every book, blog, video, learn every religion and then try to come up with your own system? I would ask you to find rest for your soul, give up the search, the Bible is true and God's message for you. All you have to do is pick it up and read, have you done that?

And for you Christian are you tired? Mom, in the hallway are you tired? Put down your phone, your Facebook, the news and read the Word. You have voice after voice in your ear and in your head; talk, talk, talk. You need rest, rest, rest for your soul. If the news gives you anxiety don't listen to it, if blogs make you feel guilty don't read them, if Facebook makes you jealous don't go on it. None of these things are prescribed from God, I promise, if you spent time putting the thoughts of God in your head rather than the million other voices you would be blessed. Why? Because the Word of God is a treasure and God in His goodness has given it to you, do not put it aside.

Now we see Paul in Galatians 1:1 was establishing his divinely appointed apostolic authority in order to call the Galatians back to God and the one true gospel as verse 1:6 explains. The Galatians had thrown away the apostolic teaching and had decided that there was a better way, and we should be reminded to not follow in their steps, the Bible calls this foolishness. You see the Galatians were departing from God, seeking to be heirs of an inheritance through circumcision and keeping the Mosaic Law rather than through faith in Christ alone. If it was not for Paul's

passionate letter the Galatians would surely have remained adrift from the truth. The same goes for you, have you wandered from the Word? Remember this treasure of Christian truth, the Bible is your source to know the way of life and to live it.

I know the concept of revelation is foreign to our cultural conditioning, the truth that the Bible is God's Word is an alien thought for our secular culture. I think one of the big reasons Christians don't avail themselves more to what is in the Word is the secular influence on them, the secular influence on you! We live in a day where God has culturally been pushed out of the equation, and if there is a nod to God it is some guru, "spiritual," new agee, yoga, one with nature and the cosmos God which has no relation whatsoever to the true creator God found only in the Bible.

Revelation is the revealing or unveiling something not know, it is the giving of information with the end goal of the recipient receiving the information that was not accessible without the giving of the revelation. The revelation of Scripture is God's revelation of Himself in a distinct, particular and special way. This first treasure of Christian Truth is the Word of God, epitomize in the appointment of apostolic teaching and can be categorized as divine revelation. As a Christian you must be aware and fight against the cultural current that tries to pull God and His revelation out of the picture. What I am saying about the wealth, riches and wonder of the Word of God will not be something you pick up as you are out and about in our culture. So you have to make a decision, accept the premise I am putting forth that the Word of God is a treasure from God to be valued, cherished, studied and applied in and through your life or bow to the voice of the culture and leave it on your shelf. There is nothing radical about denying the Word of God, true radical reformation declares *Sola Scriptura*: The scriptures alone. This has been the call of the Church from the days of Paul when he called the Galatians back to the true gospel, back to the true God. Have you become a spiritual popper, a wandering shell, Go back to the Book, Go back to the Word of God. The church does not need new and novel ideas it needs to go back to the source, back to the Bible and you don't need new and novel voices you need to avail yourself to the treasure of the Word.

The second treasure of Christian truth is God's members. The church. God has not only given us the apostles and their apostolic teaching, the Word of God but He has given us the body of Christ, the church. We see in verse 2 that Paul's greeting and letter is not only from him: a heavenly appointed apostle but

from the brothers as well. Often Paul would send his letters with greetings from not only himself but those with him which is probably the case in Galatians 1:2. We can observe a number of things from this verse, one is that Paul is not alone in his message. Paul writes to the wayward and bewitched churches in Galatia which were located in the region of modern day Turkey. Paul writes to them to call them back to the truth of the gospel and to remind them of the freedom found in Christ. But Paul is not alone in this endeavor and this is one of the treasures of Christian truth we want to say a few things about. The truth is that Christians are not alone.

There were times in Paul's life that it seems he was abandoned by all but he remained faithful to the end and was able to encourage Timothy to follow in his footsteps, Paul had established church all over the Mediterranean world and the fruit of those church have spread to the farthest reaches of the globe in our day. Yet many Christians today have a limited view of what the church is and what a treasure other believers are. Even in our Text in verse 1s-5 you see God called Father 3x and Paul call the Galatians brothers, there is a family nature to the church, the people of God. It is understood that there are two forms of the church, one called the universal church which consists of all the redeemed from the day of Pentecost recorded in the book of Acts until the rapture. The second form is called the local church, which is the assemble of saints at a given location. Barabbas Road Church is a local church and the local church is the means and group with which a Christian is to be connected. Galatians itself points to activities that can only take place within the local church just to name a few, 5:13-serve one another, 6:1 restoration, 6:2 bear one another's burdens, 6:6 giving, 6:10 do good.

The truth of the local church has also been undermined by our cultures values. The culture we live in is market driven and consumer driven, that means the market and the consumers steer the ship. For the church that is a bad thing, Christ and the Word of God need to be our guide. Because we live in a consumer driven culture we think in terms of our wants, needs and desires, it is almost pre-programed in us. If there is a coffee shop we don't like we go to another, you pick the school you want, the career path you want, the car you want, the neighborhood you want, all within reason of course. Now there is nothing wrong with an open market but it does make the concept of the local church somewhat of a foreign idea, it is not something that intuitively comes to us. We take our consumerism into the church, shop around for what we like and then we leave and move onto the next location without every considering that we *are* part of the body.

Every single one of you who is a Christian should be part of a local church, not just attending a local church but part of it, investing your life into the people and mission of that church. There is a phrase people use that can often mark if someone considers themselves a part of a church, it is the terms *you* and *us* or *we*. If someone says to me, “I like the way you guys...” it often can signal they do not consider themselves part of the church, whereas the person who says “I like that we...” has mentally committed to being within the church. Like I said I know it sounds foreign but if you are a Christian you have to be part of a local church. At this point I don’t want to back away for fear of sounding “cultish” but why are you not part of Barabbas Road Church? I have a stack of papers with different names of people who have filled out some form or another at church and a good number of people in my phone contact list are no longer at this church, why? Some moved, yes, some are fellowshipping at other locations, yes but some did not take the local church seriously and commit to it. The church is a treasure to be held on to. You show me a “Christian” who does not go to church and participate in the life of the church and I’ll show you someone living in spiritual poverty or depleting their savings quickly. It does not take long to slip out of church, one weekend here, one weekend there, and before you know it your soul has withered.

Just so you know, it is more than ok to not move because you are part of this church, if this church is the only reason you are staying in San Diego that is the best reason. The church is the supreme entity on planet earth right now. Christ died for His bride the Church and Christ will return for His church. The church is the superior body on planet earth right now. No government agency, not the UN, the Nations of America, Europe, Africa and Asia combined can compete with the supremacy of the church. It may not seem like it today but all the nations of the earth will one day bow to the king Lord Jesus and the church will rule and reign with Him. So let us not burry this treasure the church, let us not squander the riches it is, commit to being part of this church, commit to fulfilling the one another, God has given you this treasure.

The third treasure of Christian truth is God’s message: Grace and peace

Verse 3 is at the heart of this introductory greeting from Paul and the brothers, it is also at the heart of the letter to Galatians. The Galatians had abandoned grace and were without peace. We see in 1:6 and 5:4 a sampling of their abandonment of grace. The Galatians were being persuaded to live under the law but this is not grace, grace is receiving something you haven’t worked for. Paul states quite clearly in 2:16 that justification is by faith in Christ and to deny this is to nullify

the grace of God 2:21. The greatest treasure a Christian has is Christ Himself and through faith in Christ a person can be declared righteous by God.

This is another area foreign to our thinking, justification. Justification is being declared righteous, and it is not based on your performance but it comes through faith in Christ, His righteousness is imputed that is put on your account through faith. The thinking goes like this, how can a holy and just God allow a sinful person to go unpunished, wouldn't that make God unjust? And on the flip side how can a person who has sinned ever be made right with God? Christ is the answer to both questions. We see in verse 4 the answer, Christ gave himself for our sins. God punished Christ on your behalf allowing Him to remain just and through faith you obtain justification or the righteousness of Christ put to your account. In this gracious treasure God is both just in punishing sin and the one who grants you justification, this is all of grace.

But many don't even wonder about these questions of how to be right before God. When we are in India they get it but to say someone is a sinner in our culture may be one of the biggest sins of our day. The truth is whether you are asking the question or not you will one day give an answer. Consider Otto Frederick a student at the University of Virginia who was recently visiting North Korea, he attempted to steal a propaganda poster and bring it back to the United States and got caught, and this past March the Korean government sentenced him to 15 years' hard labor. While I'm not suggesting the punishment fits the crime the reality was he was in their land and need to play by their rules. The same goes for living in God's world, you may even know you need to be made right before Him but that's the case. You cannot beg your way out of heaven's courtroom on your judgment day, they only way to be freed of your crime is to accept the free gift Jesus Christ offers. If you watch the video of Otto being sentenced and begging the courts to let him go for what he calls "the biggest mistake of his life" and that "he was only human" they take no pity. The same will be for you unless you avail yourself to the grace of God now! You need to get right with God. Have you ever accepted God's gift to be right with Him?

We are not only saved by grace but we need to live by grace. Paul explains how this is done in 2:20, he allows the Spirit of Christ to live through him. Paul interweaves the Spirit's work in and through the believer's life all based on the gospel of Grace in contrast to a life led by the flesh, we see this in 3:1-5 and 5:25. This life of the flesh is one that aims at pleasing God through law, do, do, do, rather than through the Spirit which is live, live, live. Our standing before God is

not based on our performance but on His grace given to us through faith and His gracious gift has allowed us to live a new life not to somehow earn or keep our standing before Him but to be freed that by faith we may serve and love one another. The fruit of this is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Knowing and living by this Spirit empowered grace allows us to have peace. Without this grace our peace would be in ruins, we would be filled with sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissension, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like these.

You must have grace first and then you can have peace. As Charles Spurgeon once said, "Peace before grace would be perilous. Not only so but more, it would be ruinous. May you always have enough of grace to lead you on to a deep and joyful peace" If you don't know or avail yourself to the grace of God you will not have lasting peace. If your life is marked by the deeds of the flesh you will have no peace. You have removed yourself from the means of life God gives freely. You must give up, you must acknowledge you are dead and if you are alive you must acknowledge to God you can't do it and moment by moment you must do two things, one is to deny or consider crucified your fleshly passions and the other is to live out your faith working through love. Paul tells us in 6:16 that those who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them." The rule of living by faith by God's grace in the power of the Spirit.

People understand religion, religion says do this... to make God happy or for things to go well with you. The Bible teaches something totally different, it says that to try to do... you will always fail and it is not the fault of the rules put in place but you. You are the problem, because you are a sinner and you are born with a sinful nature. No matter how hard you try you will always fall short, game over with no extra lives, no do over, you are dead. This is where the Bible jumps in with a revolutionary truth, God will make you alive and give you a new Spirit, one that is able to live in relationship with Him, you cannot live the Christian life without being born again. God gives this new life to all who repent and by faith call out to Jesus believing on His name. Every Christian should easily be able to say, "I am a sinner, I cannot do it, but praise be to God through Jesus Christ I have life, hallelujah, Amen!" do you know this, not here in your head but in your heart? Do you know the life, grace and peace through Christ? It does not stop once we enter into the Christian life it carries us through until the end and as Paul says in

5:5 “for through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.” Selah, come Lord Jesus.

This is the third treasure of Christian truth, God’s message of grace and peace. May we say with the long line of faithful saint: *Sola Gratia*, by grace alone. This was Paul’s reformation call to the Galatians in the first century, this was the call in the great protestant reformation and this must be our proclamation as well. We stand Scripture alone, in Christ alone, through faith by grace alone. Never depart from this.

Rom 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The forth treasure of Christian truth is God’s means. Victory in Jesus Christ.

Paul an apostle appointed by the throne room of heaven writes to the churches in Galatia that they would have, live and grow in the grace and peace that comes from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and we see in verse four the means of this grace and peace as it describes our Lord Jesus Christ. First we are told that the Lord Jesus Christ, gave himself. There was no program of divine child abuse. God in an eternal decree planned to send His Son (1:4b, 4:4-5) and Jesus the eternal Son willfully, knowingly and gladly left the throne above and gave Himself. Do not let a darkened soul steal this treasure from you. Jesus gave, God glorified. Jesus gave himself in death and God raised Him from the dead, vs 1:1. This is the biggest act in history, the giving of Jesus’ life. 2:20. Not cosmic child abuse but Penal substitution.

This giving of Jesus’ life is God’s act of grace. Through this grace we have obtained life,

have been Redeemed (Rom. 3:24; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12; 1Pet. 1:18),

Reconciled (Rom. 5:10; 2Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:22),

Related To God Through Propitiation (1Jo. 2:2; 4:10,

Forgiven All Trespasses (Col. 2:13; Eph. 1:7; 4:32;

Conjoined To Christ (Rom. 6; Col. 2:12; 3:2-3)

Free From The Law (Rom. 6:14; 7:2-6; 2Cor. 3:6-13; Gal. 5:18)

Children Of God:

Born again (Jo. 1:12-13; 3:6; 1Pet. 1:23)
 Regenerated (Titus 3:5)
 Made alive (Eph. 2:1; cf. Col. 2:13)
 Sons of God (2Cor. 6:18; Gal. 3:26; 2Jo. 3:2)
 A new creation (2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:15)
 (9) They are Adopted (Eph. 1:4-5)
 (10) They are Acceptable To God By Jesus Christ: (Eph. 1:6; 1Pet. 2:5)
 Made Righteous (2Cor. 5:21)
 Sanctified Positionally (Jo. 17:19; Acts 20:32; 1Cor. 1:2)
 Perfected Forever (Heb. 10:14)
 Made Accepted In The Beloved (Eph. 1:6)
 Qualified (Col. 1:12)
 Justified (Rom. 3:24,26; 4:5; 5:1)
 Delivered From The Power Of Darkness (Col. 1:13)
 Translated Into The Kingdom Of The Son (1Thess. 2:12)
 On The Rock, Christ Jesus (1Cor. 3:9-15)
 A Gift From God The Father To Christ (Jo. 17:2,6,9,11,12,24)
 Circumcised In Christ (Eph. 2:11; Col. 2:11)
 Partakers Of The Holy And Royal Priesthood (1Pet. 2:5,9)
 A Chosen Generation, A Holy Nation, A Peculiar People (1Pet. 2:9)
 Heavenly Citizens (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 12:22; 2Cor. 5:8)
 Of The Family And Household Of God (Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10)
 In The Fellowship Of The Saints (Eph. 2:19; Col. 1:4,12; 1Thess. 3:13)
 Partners With Christ In Life (Col. 1:27; 1Jo. 5:11-12)
 Partners With Christ In Service (1Cor. 15:57; Eph. 2:10)
 Partners With Christ In Suffering (Phil. 1:29; 1Pet. 4:12-13)
 Partners With Christ In Prayers (Jo. 14:12-14)
 live Having Access To God:
 Access Into His Grace (Rom. 5:2)
 Access Unto The Father (Eph. 2:18)
 Objects Of His Love (Jo. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1Jo. 3:16)
 Objects Of His Grace:
 Salvation (Eph. 3:2-9)
 Safekeeping (Rom. 5:2)
 Objects Of His Power (Eph. 1:19; Phil. 2:13)
 Objects Of His Faithfulness (Heb. 13:5; Phil. 1:6; 1Thess. 5:24)
 Objects Of His Peace (Jo. 14:27; Col. 3:15)
 Objects Of His Consolation (2Thess. 2:16-17)
 Objects Of His Intercession (Rom. 8:26,34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24)

We are His Inheritance (Eph. 1:18; Rom. 8:30; Col. 3:4)
 We have The Inheritance Of The Saints (1Pet. 1:4; Eph. 1:14; Col. 3:24)
 we are Light In the Lord (Eph. 5:8; 1Jo. 1:7)
 We are Vitally United To The Father, The Son, And The Holy Spirit:
 Believer Is In God The Father (1Thess. 1:1)
 God The Father Is In The Believer (Eph. 4:6)
 Believer Is In The Son (Rom. 8:1)
 Son Is In The Believer (Jo. 14:20)
 Believer Is In The Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
 Spirit Is In The Believer (1Cor. 2:12)
 Believer Is A Member In Christ's Body (1Cor. 12:13)
 Believer Is To Christ As Branch Is To a Vine (Jo. 15:5)
 Believer Is A Stone, Christ The Cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-22)
 Believer a Sheep In Christ's Flock (Jo. 10:27-29)
 Believer Part Of The Bride Of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27)
 Believer Is A Priest; Christ Is The High Priest (1Pet. 2:5-9)
 Believer A New Creation In Christ The Last Adam (2Cor. 5:17)
 (30) They are Blessed With The Earnest Or First-Fruits Of The Spirit: (2Cor. 1:22)
 Born Of The Spirit (Jo. 3:16)
 Baptized By The Spirit (1Cor. 12:13)
 Indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9; 1Jo. 2:27; 3:24; Ja. 4:5)
 Sealed By The Spirit (2Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30)
 Filled By The Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
 (31) They are Glorified (Rom. 8:18; 8:30; Col. 3:4)
 (32) They are Complete In Him (Col. 2:9-10)
 (33) They are Possessing Every Spiritual Blessing (Eph. 1:3)
 Chafer concludes with these important words:
 "It would hardly be amiss to restate the truth that salvation is a work of God for man and not a work of man for God. It is what God's love prompts Him to do and not a mere act of pity which rescues creatures from their misery".

This fourth treasure of Christian truth is God's means of grace and peace, Jesus Christ

He gave himself freely for our sins, your sins did not send Jesus to the cross, He went to the cross for our sins. Your sins are not good or active agents, God and His loving grace willed that our sins be paid for by Christ, there is nothing aside from His sovereign goodness that compelled Him to do such a thing. Your sins do not demand a sacrifice, your sins demand damnation, God is the one who gave grace. The sins of ours deserve death but He gave freely for a purpose, to deliver

us from the present evil age. What! You a sinner, me a sinner, the Galatians sinners, the apostle Paul a sinner yet Jesus gave of himself in death (Phil 2:1-11) in place of our sins, ἡπὲρ (this is a mega theme, illustrated clearly throughout the OT sacrificial system) to rescue us from the present evil age. It does not say remove us but to rescue us. We await the day when Christ will come for His bride the church and “we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness” (5:5)

I know we are troubled by the evil around us, we see it daily, we hear of it, we experience it in our own homes but there is a treasure of Christian truth for you, something vital for you to cling to, Jesus gave himself so we would not have to face the penalty of our sins and because we are free He can and will one day rescue us from the present evil age. Do not lose hope, I know this age is evil, God knows it is evil and He has made a way of escape, we must have an eternal view and live as lights in this dark world.

This rescue is also from the powers that once held you captive, the lustful passions, the lies of the evil one, the pride of life. If He has transferred, you from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light will He not continue this rescue and one day remove you from the presence of evil as well. Have you known the life transforming power of Christ in you? Well He’s not done, you will go from grace to grace. Do not turn back and try to solve the problems of the present evil age yourself, you must point people to the only one who can rescue them from it, Jesus Christ.

We all know there is a problem, Jesus is the solution, not Donald trump, not Bernie Sanders. Do you know this One who offers rescue? We can compare our life before Christ to being in a sunken ship, there may be pockets of air but it is only a matter of time. Your life is a room in which the water has yet to permeate but you are living in a tomb. At any moment, the dark deep could burst the door of your cabin as you play cards, watching pornography and lust after riches, each day the ship door creaks louder as the pressure of death squeezes in. You can’t open the door lest the watery death envelope you in an instant, you must be rescued and Jesus is your only way of escape. By God’s grace your room has not imploded as the pressures of the dark, cold, silent abyss surrounds you. You have heard at times the cabins around you collapse with a violent, crushing burst and those inside, lifeless and hopeless, the darkness and the deep has taken them. We are reminded of Jonah, 1:7-2:10, fleeing from the Lord but you must flee to the Lord. Jesus is the only solution out of this evil age. So do not forget this treasure, Christ has

promised us an escape both from the power of sin in our lives today and one day from the very presence of sin.

May we say with those of true faith, *Solus Christus*, through Christ alone.

The fifth and last treasure of Christian truth is God's motive, His glory.

Paul was appointed an apostle through God and Christ, grace and peace come from God and Christ, Jesus gave himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil age, all according to the will of God which leads us to the last treasure of Christian truth and why God has done such wonderful things, it is for His glory. And Ends with Amen! Eph 2:7 remind us of this very point.

What a perfect way to end this section. You receive grace, He receives glory.

Jesus gave, God glorifies. What can you add to God? Nothing

There is His intrinsic glory, the revelation of all that God is. It is the sum total of all His divine perfections and holy attributes. There is nothing that man can do to add to His intrinsic glory. Second, there is God's ascribed glory, which is the praise and honor due His name. This is the glory that man must give to God. That is what we are left to do, give praise and honor due His name. God's glory and honor and praise are displayed supremely in Christ and in the cross. This treasure is both freeing and motivating. Freeing in that we see life isn't about you it's about God and our pursuit of glorifying Him in all that we say, do and think. This treasure is also motivating in that it gives us our aim in life. Paul was living for God and God was glorified because of it (1:23-24). When we realize how rich a treasure this is we can say Amen! Read through the book of Ecclesiastes and you find that living for this life brings despair but we see here this treasure that results in the praise and glory of God.

- This refrain has been proclaimed by God's people for centuries and we must do the same: *Soli Deo Gloria*, glory to God alone.

These five treasures of Christian truth are yours. Do not bury them, do not take them for granted. God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ are the originators, designers and empowering agents through all of this so why would we think any other thought, philosophy, feeling or emotion is worth burying these riches.

You show me an impoverished Christian and I'll show you someone who doesn't heed the word, doesn't fellowship with the saints, doesn't rely on the grace of God, doesn't look to Christ for hope and doesn't live for the glory of God.

But If I meet a Christian abounding in spiritual riches, I can guarantee they are in the Word, in fellowship with the saints, relying on grace, waiting for the blessed hope and living for the glory of God.

This has been the call from the days of Paul, through the times of the reformation, and we are called to it in our day, we must be committed to

Sola Scriptura, by Scripture alone.

Sola Fide, by faith alone.

Solus Christus, through Christ alone.

Sola Gratia, by grace alone.

Soli Deo Gloria, glory to God alone.

You are left with the choice, either continue with the world or Believe What God says in His Word. Christian I would ask you- trust God.

5 treasures of Christian truth

1. The first treasure is God's messengers- apostolic word, the Bible
2. The second treasure is God's members- the body of Christ
3. The third treasure is God's message-grace and peace
4. The fourth treasure is God's means- Victory in Jesus Christ
5. The fifth treasure is God's motive- His glory