**“Found and Covered Up”**

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Romans 8:28-39

Matthew 13:44-52

 Pentecost 8

Jesus said: “The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up**. Then **in his joy** he **goes and sells all that he has and buys that field**.”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

Beginning with last week’s P.S., **Jesus** is the **first and ultimate “treasure**”. It was **He** who was (first and most notably) “hidden in a field” (buried in a grave in the “field” of the world), “found” by His Father (“the man” into whose hands Jesus had “committed His Spirit”), the Father then “covering Him up” (“hiding” Him next to Himself, out of physical sight yet still near to everyone, returning Him to His own “right hand” in the Ascension, a place though **quite-embedded** **still** **into the** **earth** but “hidden” under words and water and bread and wine / a church). And this is **the Father’s “joy”**, gladly giving-away His **best** **for it all**. “God, the Father, so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son into it**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but instead have eternal life from it”.

“The **kingdom of heaven** is **like** **that**, the “**Seed of woman**” having been (for 4,000 years) “**hidden**” in the lineage of Abraham, **his descendants God** **set aside for that**, bearing the blessing that is for the whole world: the **Holy One** to be born from its loins. The Old Testament “treasure” was the New Testament “treasure”: the “Messiah” / the “Christ”. “**Hidden**” under **promise** and a nation of descendants, the One we hear unpacking **Himself and us** from parables **was always** the “**Pearl of great value**”, He **always** the “**Net** thrown into the sea” to catch all gathered to Him, He the One **most** **pleasurable** **to the Father in Heaven**, “**treasured**” as of “great value”.

“The kingdom of heaven is **like” that**. And it’s the **kingdom of heaven** because it **reflects and shares also the dynamics of the Godhead**, **showing it (Himself) to His creation and all that is for that creation’s benefit**. It’s “hidden” because its mystery to the created, “covered up” as in protected and cared for, something beyond (far beyond) creation’s understanding, yet **revealed to it** by His own self (in the Son). **Revealed** in **flesh** and in the **earthly analogy of words**. **Revealed** in **Gospel**. How **blest we are** to have this unpacked for us, and to have this **FOR US** (this “hidden” **reality** and its **revelation** of **God FOR US** **/ saving us**) …

**Text**

… because that Gospel (“hidden / covered up” / a mystery of the dynamics of the Godhead **FOR US** / **story**) is shown as **ours** **joined-fully-into** by those **literally** “**in Christ**”. “**Called according to God’s purpose**, **pre-destined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, **justified**, and **glorified**”, we’re **equally “treasured” and rejoiced-over as “fine pearls of great value” because we are (by the promise of baptism and faith) IN the “treasure” and “fine pearl” of Jesus**. See, the “hidden” gem is **Jesus**, so **all made and kept** **in Him** are “hidden” gems by **connection** and **our being “hidden” under and in Him**. Pearls “hidden” then **we** get to **know ourselves as** (God seeing His own Divine Son when He sees us, baptism and faith **guaranteeing it to us** as a **visual promise to us from God / a covenant**). God **secured what He’d planned-to from before** **time** by an **out-loud promise and Spirit using water and a Word of promise**, then sustains it and lets us ever grow in our knowledge-of-it by **additional (ongoing) words confirming it and unpacking it as revelation and an ever-clearer understanding**, how God “**conforms us to the image of His Son**” … what He’d **planned to do**, and **is carrying out**, from before time had its start.

That’s the **mystery** “**hidden**” and “**covered up**”. It’s the **Gospel**: a “**treasure**” to be sure … and “**fine pearl of great value**” to be sure. And **God’s Son** (that **Gospel in person**) **lets us know it**. ….

No doubt, you recognize the **cross** in this parable: “in the Father’s joy He **goes and sells all that He has and buys that field**”. “**Redemption**”, see, is a **purchase arrangement**. God sold His Son and bought the “world” (the “field”). The transaction had a **price tag** that needed currency **valuable enough** to cover to cost of everybody. What **was** (and God willingly did it) was the Divine blood of Himself (His own Son, Jesus). “In Him the fullness of Godhead dwelt bodily, yet the Father’s the, unique, “**merchant**” who (as the second parable said of Him), **bartered with** “**All that He had**”.

And the price tag was so high that it was **necessary** that the Father **gave His All** to make that purchase. You and I were under another’s ownership (Satan’s), but God had desired “that **all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth**”. So, **saving is what He did** (**THAT from the purchase He made by the sacrifice of His Son for the world**). And we who **love that fact** (knowing **from where we’d come** to, then, **where He’s provided us to be**) get to be **saved by it** (“called, again, according to God’s purpose / His hidden Word on that, the Gospel, pre-destined to be conformed to the image of His Son, justified, and glorified”). **In THAT GOOD NEWS / FAITH**, **we then (joined with Christ by promise) are also “treasure hidden in a field, found and covered up by God”, the “fine pearl (with Christ) … of great value”**.

**Outside of that though** (and you really almost have to **WANT to be outside of that, staying away from God’s grace and refusing to be favorably in His net**) there’s a reality coming of being **thown-away by His angels as bad** “**at the close of the age**”. “The angels **will come out**” (Jesus unpacks again just as He did in the parable that we heard from Him last week); they’ll come “and separate the evil” from the ones that God’s been allowed to make righteous by belief in His promise, and they will “throw the evil into the fiery furnace … and in that place there **will be** weeping and gnashing of teeth”.

**Application**

**Election to grace** is the blessed promise that God’s Gospel in His Son, Jesus, is **our “treasure”** as **we’re, then, also the Father’s “treasure”**. **Us** **“Hidden and Covered Up” with Christ** makes us **joined to what’s His Best and All**. In summary of that, I wrote its points a few years back, so included it as yours to take home and enjoy:

1. That the entire **human race** is, in fact, truly redeemed (or bought-back), so reconciled with God through Christ. **By His faultless obedience, suffering, and death, Christ merited-for-us** the righteousness that helps us before the Father and grants eternal life.
2. Such **merit and benefits earned by Christ** are graciously **presented, offered, and distributed to people** through the Word of God’s Gospel and the Mysteries of His Sacraments (of Baptism washed onto us and into us).
3. By His Holy Spirit (through the Word, when it is preached, heard, and pondered) **Christ** becomes **effective in us** and **active in us**.
4. God’s Holy Spirit will **justify** all those who, in true repentance (in sorrow for our sins and a desire to turn from them wanting God’s mercy) **receive Christ as Lord and Savior by a true faith (and trust)**. God, having already made payment for them with His Son’s blood, **adopts** as, also, sons and daughters of His, **promising** (even **guaranteeing, through baptism**) the inheritance of eternal life.
5. God will also **sanctify** (or work to **make pure**) all who are His own, and do-so in love, **growing us always more and more** **toward His own image**.
6. He will **protect** those of His own who might, yet, show great weakness against the devil and the temptations of this world and the wants of the flesh. Related to His sanctifying of us, He **protects us** by **ruling our hearts and leading us in His ways**, raising us up when we stumble, comforting us as we bear crosses that we must, and preserving us for that life that’s eternal.
7. To this end, He **will strengthen, increase, and support (to the end)** the Good that He begins in us, and He does-that as we cling to His Word and pray diligently, abiding purposefully in what His Goodness entrusts to us.
8. Finally, God **will** **save** and **glorify** His own according to His promise. It will be **His work** **to make Good ultimately happen** as we continue to let Him take us there.

**Here** are God’s **promises to us summarized by His Romans 8 text**: “it **is** God who justifies. **Who can separate us from the love of Christ?** For those who love God **all things work together for good**.” In +Jesus’ name. Amen.

May the peace of God that surpasses human understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.