

PROGRAM 82 TEASER

Saul of Tarsus had it all. Education. Upper Crust circle. Recognition. A future with only one direction to go—up with the movers and shakers of Israel’s religious society. Then on one of his terrorist trips, an astonished Saul met the risen Christ. That’s when he discovered true riches—and called all of his past advantages and achievements mere rubbish. Was he correct? Millions who have followed Paul in life—including me— can say the same. God is the giver of true riches. That’s why He first gave His Son. Are you facing dark nights? Terrible fears? Pain? Disappointment? Loneliness? Guilt—or a hundred other problems too big to handle? I’m Frank Eiklor. Will you take 30 minutes with me right now? You just may experience the great difference between God’s true riches vs. the world’s expensive rubbish—on More Than Talk.

PROGRAM 82 PAGE 1

TRUE RICHES VERSUS EXPENSIVE RUBBISH

PAGE 1 A Song In The Night

“With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” Isaiah 26:9

Night! A word that connotes darkness and a time when evil people enjoy prowling and decent people take their rest. But those who walk long with the Lord know that night can often be the time of the most intimate of fellowship with the unseen but ever-present Lord. Yes, I know those wonderful scriptures that promise His beloved sleep. And I both need and appreciate a good night's rest. Yet it was many of those times when I could not sleep - whatever the physical, mental or spiritual reasons - that I found Him hovering over me with a whisper, "Here I am. I love you. Let's enjoy each other." And I'm sure there were a few times when sleep didn't matter, so great was the thrill of His nearness and companionship.

Let us desire the Lord with our souls and seek Him early. It is often during the times that we hear no ringing telephones or the world's many voices that we most clearly hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. At times His voice will speak correction or even strong rebuke. Or He may whisper hope and encouragement during heavy trials. Or He may just call for your love as He bathes you in His own. The more the

Psalms desired only the Lord, the more God gave him a heart that beat for others, not merely for himself. He longed for heaven's judgments and justice to teach the world God's righteous ways.

Never fear the sense of loneliness that tries to come when sleep won't. That loneliness is your spirit saying, "I'm lonely for the One who loves me most. I'm lonely for You, Father."

My prayer: "Give me great desire in my soul for You, my blessed Lord. Teach me in my spirit to love to seek You early."

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TRUE RICHES VERSUS EXPENSIVE RUBBISH

PAGE 2 When Fear Threatens To Drown You

"You drew near on the day I called on You, and said, "Do not fear!" Lamentations 3:57

To "draw near" is "to make a move toward one...to come, move, approach" (Webster). How wonderful is this proclamation by Jeremiah, which is also a promise to you and me. Let this truth sink into your spirit: the God whom the universe cannot contain (something merely created outside of the great "I AM") chooses to call the Body of Christ His collective temple and your very body, soul and spirit His individual temple - the place where He dwells. But He longs to reveal Himself to you in deeper and deeper ways. Sort of like a Father walking hand in hand with his child. Suddenly the child senses danger and cries to his daddy who then draws his beloved offspring tight to his bosom in a protective embrace while saying with calm authority, "Don't be afraid, my little one!"

This is how your Father in heaven feels about you. What is it that causes your fears? The roots of fear are usually sin and unbelief. When we take spiritual inventory (better do it daily!), recognize a sin and confess it from the heart, we ourselves are drawing closer to God. And He promises, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." (James 4:8)

The Father expects you to call upon Him and His vast resources - whether it is for forgiveness for sin or for His supernatural intervention in your trials and tears. His reply will always be "Fear not!" as He wraps you, like He did Jeremiah, in His arms. And just look at the result in the following verse: "O Lord, you have pleaded the causes of my soul (You have managed my affairs and You have protected my person and my rights); You have rescued and redeemed my life!" (v 58 Amplified)

My prayer: "My Father, I draw as close to You as I possibly can. But I hunger for more. Draw me closer to You!"

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TRUE RICHES VERSUS EXPENSIVE RUBBISH

PAGE 3 What Doesn't Last Is Ultimate Rubbish

"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. " Philippians 3:10

"May I have your autograph?" "Oh look, there he/she is - wow - I can actually see him/her!" "And guess what, I got to shake his/her hand!" These words describe the thrill of people meeting "celebrities" who may be famous today and infamous or forgotten tomorrow. Many of the rich and famous - especially athletes - even charge for their autographs. And their fans line up to pay!

But when it comes to "celebrity", there is only One truly worth celebrating. You would think that the whole world would be lining up to have the Lord Jesus autograph His name on their hearts! But that only bears out the truth that what God values is of little importance to the world and visa versa.

Paul had it right. And so must we. Once he met Jesus, all else became obscure - counted as loss instead of gain (v7). To add weight to that conviction, he went further, declaring what he had to give up in order to walk with Jesus as dung - "mere rubbish, refuse, dregs." (v 8 Amplified) In verse 9 he exulted in being filled with Christ's righteousness and not his own self-efforts, and then in today's verse 10 he utters that which must become your obsession and mine: "For my determined purpose is that I may know Him - that I may progressively become

more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly..."
(Amplified)

When that cry comes from the depth of your spirit, you will experience more and more a double blessing kept from the world but revealed to those who seek the only worthy "celebrity" - Jesus Christ: 1) the power of His resurrection as it surges in you and 2) the fellowship of sharing some of His sufferings which will be your privilege if you live a godly life in an ungodly world.

My prayer: "Father, fill me with one consuming passion - not merely to know much about Christ, but to know Him in the depths of intimacy!"

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TRUE RICHES VERSUS EXPENSIVE RUBBISH

PAGE 4 Better From The Bitter—Gain From The Pain

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” Genesis 50:20

To the one who grows more intimate with the sovereign Lord of time and eternity, even the dark pages and chapters of life take on a redemptive "Romans 8:28 meaning." Though not all things that happen to us are good or sent by our Father of love, they work for good as God allows the worst of situations and times to help conform us to the image of Jesus. God knew you before you were born, loved you during your most terrible moments (whether a sad childhood, tragic marriage, devastated health, betrayal by a trusted friend, or a thousand other evils). He can bring better from the bitter, gain from the pain and heaven's best lessons from earth's worst sessions.

Study Joseph well. What's worse than to be sold into slavery - by your own kin? Imagine the destructive attitudes he might have nurtured that would have affected his whole future. Instead, he recognized that God's love for him would work out purposes beyond any past or present suffering. Now, years removed from that tearful pit where he was placed by brothers who showed no mercy, Joseph now sat in power as Egypt's Prime Minister - and with tears freely forgave those fear-filled

brothers with a promise to nurture and sustain them. No wonder Joseph is a type of Jesus the Messiah. Look what our sins did to Him? Yet though we thought evil against Him, Jesus knew that the Father meant it for good - so He could love us forever. See everything - including your worst sins and greatest heartaches - in light of the Cross and submit to the Father's sovereignty. He will bring beauty from your ashes and purpose from your pain.

My prayer: "Father, open my eyes to Your consuming love for me. Help me never to use my past as an excuse, or blame others for my failures. Instead of feeding on remorse, show me how to see my past hurts and hindrances in the light of Your redemptive ability to use my life."

PROGRAM 82 PAGE 5

TRUE RICHES VERSUS EXPENSIVE RUBBISH

PAGE 5 When Money Doesn't Cut It

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11

What a promise to the weary and worn out! To the one facing trials and temptations. To those facing persecution and even martyrdom. Or, on a less extreme scale, to you and to me as we face the challenges and uncertainties of each day.

Just think - God will be your sun (warmth, light, energy, cheer, life itself) and your shield, where nothing can touch you that He does not allow for your good and your growth. To that He adds His grace (His favor and enablement to meet any test) and His glory (the Shekinah presence of the Lord both surrounding and indwelling your being). Double "S" and double "G" - sun and shield, grace and glory. All given freely to the life that chooses to walk uprightly before such a caring God and to be "hidden in his glory." Here are words I wrote under that title:

"I watched a star this morning, as the sun began to rise;

It seemed to melt and fade away, as light spread across the skies;
And as the sun grew brighter, the star could not be seen;

It was hidden in the glory, of a warm and brilliant sheen.
Like that distant little star, I want my life to be;
Bathed in greater glory, not I - but Christ in me:
For it's the warmth of Jesus, that can melt hearts cold as snow;
And as His love shines through me, it will cause new life to grow.
Hidden in His glory, and content to let Him shine;
I want the light of Jesus, to flood this life of mine."

My prayer: "My precious Lord, thank You for being my sun and shield, and for giving me Your grace and glory. So let me walk uprightly that I will be hidden in Your glory and reflect Your light and love to others."