

## Riches of CHRIST:

Or, The Glorious

REASURÉ  
OF  
HEAVENLY JOYS,

set forth and expounded to all good Christians: Wherein un-  
speakable Blessings are proposed  
for the Encouragement and Com-  
fort of all that will strive and la-  
bour to work out their Salvation  
with Fear and Trembling.

With likewise Exhortations to a true and timely  
Repentance. With a devout Prayer, suit-  
ing to so divine a Subject.

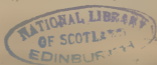
*Useful for all People, and necessary  
in Families.*

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ED J. BUNTAN.

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T H E

## Riches of CHRIST:

O R,

The glorious Treasure of  
Heavenly Joys, &c.

2 Cor. viii. 9.

*For ye know the grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, that tho' he was  
Rich, yet for your sakes he became  
poor, that ye thro' his Poverty  
might be made rich.*

**U**Pon this Consideration we may  
raise our largest Thoughts to  
an exceeding Height; for, if  
we purchase this Pearl of great  
Price, if we buy this Field, we have a portio-  
n laid up, not only sufficient to satisfy the  
most

most desirous Mind and craving appetite. not only in thi World, but in the World come ; the Consideration of which made t Apostle to cry out, as in a Rapture, *O the height and depth of the riches and Mercy God in Jesus Christ!* In thi there is a fading Riches, that make to themselves Wings and fly away, or are perishing, and cannot relieve or reprove us in our greatest necessity ; but an unspeakable and everlasting Treasure, beyond what the World can afford. This Treasure of Riches is above the value of a thousand Worlds. Would you have length of Days ? Here you may find it held out to you in one Hand. Would you aspire to true greatness ? Here you have a Crown, not for a Time, but for ever and ever. *Be thou faithful unto the Death, and I will give you a Crown of Life.* says our blessed Lord and Saviour. Would you be a King ? Here is a Kingdom worthy the highest Ambition, where we shall reign with our blessed Lord, not only for an Age, but endless Ages, even to all Eternity. Kings and Priests. Would you have Joy and content ? There it is as Holy David witnesseth, *Thou wilt shew me the path of Life, in thy presence is fulness of Joy, and at thy right Hand there are pleasures for evermore.* Psal. xvi, 11. Would you have wherewithal to refresh you ? Here Streams the Rivers of Waters of Life, here's the heavenly *Manna*, the spiritual Food of An-  
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gels. Would you be always in light? Here you need no Sun by Day, nor Moon by Night; the Lamb is the Lamp; and the Light of his Countenance fills the Mansions of Eternity with dazzling glory, and rays of brightness, transcending all the brightness this World is capable of, for beyond what the Sun affords when shining in its full lustre, compared with a glimmering taper. If the Queen of *Sheba* came to admire the Wisdom of *Solomon*, behold a greater than *Solomon* is here! Behold here the wisdom of the Father, the eternal word, by whom all things were made that are made; and yet he offers himself, with all that can be counted rich and glorious, to those that will freely embrace his tender Love. O! what would not some Men do for a small Portion of Earth, which at last they must be separated from? How do we behold worldlings grovelling below after vain transitory Things, and spare no Pain, Cost, Hazard or Danger, to acquire momentary Trifles, and neglect to purchase when such a Pearl of Price is to be had; nay even neglect to desire it, preferring a small Weight of perishing Earth before an exceeding Weight of Glory, to prefer sickness, trouble and Dileates, before Life, ease and immortal Happiness. O! consider how infinitely the Terms are good, and what Infinite Gain may be had for the like Time well improved, that is spent in seeking af-  
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ter even Riches transcending the largest account. For as the Apostle tells us, *Eye has not seen, nor Ear heard, nor has it entered into the Heart of Man to conceive what God has laid up for those that Love and obey him.* All precious Things to which this World gives a Name and of most esteem, are not comparable to them, as a drop of Water to the Ocean, or a grain of Sand to the whole mass of Earth. And how great then ought our Love to be towards him, that not only tenders us this Treasure, but shed his redeeming Blood to purchase it for us, and to draw us out of the Snares of Destruction, when we lay in Darkness and the shadow of Death ?

HOW great ought our Veneration to be for so transcendent a love and favour as this, when the Innocent submitted to die to save the Guilty from the Power of the second Death ! *For he hath delivered us from the wrath that is to come,* 1 Thes. 1. 10. So that to them that are in Christ there is no condemnation, Rom. viii. 1. this being the main Promise of God, *That whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting Life,* John iii. 15, 16. For this great conqueror has o'erthrown him that had the power of Death, (*that is the Devil*) delivering them who, through fear of Death, were all their Lifetime subject to bondage, hav-

ving spoiled Principalities and Powers,  
 and made a triumph over Death and Hell,  
 slaying the King of Terrors, and the Enemy  
 Mankind, who laboured earnestly to en-  
 ve and bring to final Destruction all the  
 sons of *Adam*, and had undoubtedly seen  
 his implacable Malice accomplished upon the  
 whole Race, had not this great Prince dis-  
 tinguished himself of his Glory for a Time, to  
 free us from Bondage, and put us into a State  
 and possibility of Salvation.

HOW can we in these Thoughts do other-  
 ways than break out into a Rapture with  
 holy *David*, viz. " I will magnify thee and  
 I will praise thy Name for ever and ever,  
 Great is the Lord, and marvellous, wor-  
 thy to be praised, there is no end of his  
 Righteousness; the memorial of thy a-  
 bundant Kindness shall be shewed, and  
 Men shall Sing of thy Righteousness, that  
 thy Power, thy Glory, and the mightiness  
 of thy Kingdom might be known to Men.  
 Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom,  
 and thy Dominion endureth through all  
 Ages; the Lord upholdeth all such as  
 fall, and lifteth up those that are cast  
 down, the Eyes of all wait upon thee, O  
 Lord, and thou givest them Meat in due  
 Season, *Psal.* cxlv, 1. &c.

THESE Considerations, methinks, should  
 raise and inflame the minds of Men with des-  
 fires

fires suitable to the longing after a Treasure so inestimable, a Pearl worth more than ten thousand Worlds, a Jewel no where else to be purchased, no where else to be found. Kingdom of all Pleasures and Delight. These Thoughts made the kingly Prophet to have but a mean Esteem of Earthly Pomp and grandeur compared with this, when he cried out, *O how amiable are thy dwellings! O thou Lord of Hosts! My Soul panteth after thee, as the Hart panteth after the Water Brooks, &c.* and St. Paul compared all Things as dung and dross to the love of Christ; and courageously affirmed, *that neither height nor depth, Principalities nor powers, things present nor things to come, &c. should be able to separate him from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ, the blessed and amiable Lord of Life, Glory and immortality; the fairest among ten thousand.*

BUT here let us consider, to gain the riches of Christ, we must give up our selves wholly to his Divine Will, both Soul and Body, committing our selves to him, as into the hands of a faithful Redeemer; for seeing he has redeemed us from our Enemies, that therefore we need not stand in fear of them, according to that of *Isaiab xliii. 1. fear not for I have redeemed thee.* But as we are taught in the next Words, we should all the Days of our Life worship him without fear,  
and



and when at any Time we have grieved so good and so gracious a God, by sinning against him, the remembrance of our redemption should encourage us to return unto him, seeing he, as our Saviour, hath redeemed and bought us with so great a price, therefore we ought to acknowledge him as our Lord, in right of Redemption, and our selves not to be our own, but his Servants; for therefore Christ died and rose again to life, that he might be the Lord of the quick and the dead, *Rom. xiv. 9.* And if we acknowledge him to be our Lord, we must be careful to do his will, or else we in vain do call him so, as did those he reproved, *viz. Why do ye call me Lord, and do not the things that I command you: Luke vi. 46.*

*CHRIST* died for all, that those who live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them and rose again. *2 Cor. v. 15.*

THIS Consideration caused the primitive Christians to seal their Testimonies with their Blood, running violently to the flames and tortures, and not accepting any Deliverance that might render them unworthy of the Riches and Mercy of their Redeemer, who had so freely laid down his Life to purchase them Glory and Immortality, in a Kingdom that lasts as long as God is God, and that is endless

less and to all Eternity. Here we have, even in our best State, but a glimpse of the Glory that shall be revealed; and how often have good Christians despised and trampled on all Riches, Honour and Glory this World could give, and embrace all the Miseries, we suppose, can make a Man, the most miserable of Creatures, to follow the Guidance of that marvellous Light that has been revealed, nothing but the Riches of Christ, held forth in his Meritorious Death and Passion, could satisfy or bound the large Desire of their Souls. No Worlds below, tho' innumerable, adorned with all the gaudy Vanities and momentary Pleasures, could balance the least Thought of eternal Happiness; and many Times raptures of Joy, in Holy and Pious contemplations, have raised them even to Heaven itself, in imagination, whilst their Bodies have remained on the Earth, and made them with *St. Paul* to cry out, *That they desired to be dissolved and to be with Christ*. The holy Martyrs have clapped their Hands in the midst of the Flames, whilst their Finger ends have blazed with Fire like so many torches, to light their Souls to the Mansions of eternal Bliss, prepared for them by their Redeemer, and sung Triumph and Praise to the Lord Jesus; who strengthened and supported them in the midst of their fiery Trial; and some have confessed when the Flames have encompassed them, and part of their Bodies con-

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consumed, that they have felt no more Pain than in a Bed of Downs, and that the Coals of fire and devouring flames have appeared like a pleasant Garden of Roses and Lillies round them.

O that Men would be wise and consider these Things, that they would with *St. Paul* die daily to sin, and the corruption of the flesh, to live to *Christ* in righteousness and purity of Spirit, that so they may justly lay claim to his Merit, to the Riches and Treasure of his Mercy; for no doubt the Consideration of the stupendous Redemption that he has wrought for the Sons and Daughters of Men, occasioned what *St. John* saw in the *Rev.* iv. 9, 10, 11. viz. *And when the Beast* (whose character you will find at large in that Chapter) *give Glory and Honour, and thanks to him that sat on the Throne, who liveth for ever and ever: The four and twenty Elders fall down before him that sat on the Throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever; and cast their Crowns before the Throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour, and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy Pleasure they are and were created.*

COULD we have a prospect, tho' in a vision of the holy Men, whose Souls were redeemed from the Earth, and are triumphing and  
sing

singing Praise, and hallelujahs in the highest Heavens, with what wonder and amazement would the Riches and Mercy of our bless'd Lord transport and carry them away? We should truly and feelingly say with the Apostle, *It is good for us to be here*; that is to be in a State of possibility of gaining the like happy Vision of the Divine beatitude; we should then look upon every Thing else as dark and dull, and conclude them but droppings and Dung, with St. *Paul* when rapt up into the third Heavens, tho' he knew not whether in the Flesh or the Spirit, and saw and heard Things unutterable, that his Tongue perhaps was not capable of expressing Words suitable to give mankind an account of them, tho' he had thought fit, or been dispos'd to reveal them; and after that, we find his Mind duly enflamed after a fuller fruition of them. Life itself seem'd tedious to him, and made him court Death (that was to distance him from the lower World) the King of Terrors so dreadful to the greatest Part of Mankind, to set him at Liberty, as it appears by his desiring to be dissolved *and to be with Christ*. Whilst wordlings are contending for earthly Treasure, that is of a small duration, and cannot give the least real content; let us raise our Souls to take a Prospect of the true Riches, the Treasure of everlasting duration, even the Riches of Christ's Mercy and Love towards miserable Sinners; who when laid

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Darkness and the shadow of Death, gave his Life as a Ransom for us, to appease the Father's Justice.

O! Let not the Consideration of Worldly Treasure make you turn aside from following this rich Mine, this Golden Vein of Heavenly Treasure, let us renounce the whole World to purchase it; let nothing stand in competition, or be thought too dear, to part with all upon this account, so we may not lose for Trifles the most excellent of all Riches promised to us in the Gospel.

*AND every one that (says our blessed Saviour) hath forsaken Houses. or Brethren, or Sisters, or Father or Mother, or Wife or Children, or Lands for my Names sake, shall receive an hundred fold and shall inherit everlasting Life, Mat. xix. 29. here is a Promise worth a thousand Worlds, worthy the shaking off and sacrificing all our darling affections that stand betwixt us and Christ, to hinder us from running into his blessed Arms, and wholly casting our selves upon the Riches of his Mercy, in which alone there is comfort and rest for weary Souls.*

*THE King (says holy David) shall joy in thy Strength, O Lord; and in thy Salvation how greatly shall he rejoyce! Psal. xxi. 1. If we cast our Anchor here, we have*

a ſure Foundation, and he that is the diſpoſer of all things will not ſuffer us, even in this Life, to want what he ſees convenient for us. *The Earth is the Lord's, and the fulneſs thereof, the World and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the Seas, and eſtabliſhed it upon the Floods,* Pfalm. xxiv. 1, 2.

MANY-Times we find indeed that God withholdſ his Hands from the Righteous, and gives them not ſuch plenty of earthly Things as the wicked commonly poſſeſs; this made *David* almoſt ſtumble, but when he had better conſidered, he greatly rejoiced. For as our bleſſed Lord confeſſed that his Kingdom was not of this World, we may well believe, that thoſe whom he loves ſhall not have their Portion here, but receive it in the Kingdom prepared for them, in all fulneſs of joy and bleſſedneſs, even the Riches of *Chriſt* ſhall be their Part; then, they may truly ſay, Their Lot is fallen in a fair Land; the Lord is their Heritage, even the Lord of Glory, the King of Saints, and Angels, who has ſubdued for us Death and the Grave; who died and roſe again, that he might become Lord both of the living and the Dead. And in this Caſe the Chriſtian may aſſure himſelf with holy *David* viz. *The Lord is my ſhepherd, I ſhall not want: He maketh me ly down in green Paſtures, he leadeth me beſide the ſtill Waters, he reſtoreth my Soul,*  
he

*hs leadeth me in the Paths of Righteousness for his Names sake. Yea, tho' I walk thro' the Valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy Staff shall comfort me. Thou preparest a Table before me in the presence of mine Enemies; thou anointest my Head with Oil, my cup runneth over; Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the Days of my Life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever, Plal. xxiii, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.* Now, seeing all Power in Heaven and Earth is given to our blessed Lord, how can we doubt but the Riches of his Mercy will extend to those that love him, and keep his Word in Truth and uprightnes?

O then let us strive now to run the Race that is set before us, that we may have the reward Christ offers in the riches of his Mercy, to which nothing can come near in value. If we can possess ourselves of that, we have all that ought to be desireable, all that, can make us eternally Happy; these are the only Aims and Wishes of the Saints of God: They desire to purchase nothing but Christ, and in him find all that is rich, glorious and good, all that is lovely and amiable; he is the only Pearl of Price, the rich Treasure in the Field, for which we should freely part with all to purchase, and the Bargain no doubt will enrich us for ever; and satisfy the vastest Desire that the Thoughts can frame.

*That I had wings like a Dove, (saith holy David, in the Rapture of these Thoughts) that I might fly away and be at rest. And certainly there remaineth, as holy Writ mentioneth, a Rest for the People of God, which through the Riches and Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Merits may be obtained, if we consider even in this our Day the Things that belong to our Perseverance. Which grant, O Lord, for thy infinite Mercies sake, that we may praise and magnify thy holy Name, World without End, Amen.*

## The P R A Y E R.

**O** blessed Jesus, consider me a miserable Wretch, whom in the Riches of thy Mercy, in shedding thy most precious Blood, thou hast redeemed from Death to Life, my Soul is ravished with the Thoughts of thy transcendant Compassion. O! draw me, and I shall follow with Joy and Delight. O! turn not away thy amiable Eyes, lest I faint, for my Soul is full of Love; guide me in thy Truth, and let me so Live, that when I die, my Soul may rest with thee. *Amen.*

F I N I S.