



*God's*

*Riches*



*Christ's Enablement*

July 2000

Mama:

I just wanted to share some things with you and Gary. All of this is new to me. You have helped me see that God wants me to focus on the message, and that the Message is a Person – Jesus Christ. In that light, I would like to share testimonies of God and His Word each month in a little newsletter like this to you, and anyone else to whom you think it would be encouraging.

I have been thinking a lot lately of God's will for this ministry. Most of all, God has me anchored in **Colossians 4:17**, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." A ministry "received" from God will be fruitful and fulfilling. A ministry "achieved" will not be fruitful and fulfilling. I pray that I will rest in His ministry, and trust Him.

Here are some highlights of God's ministry in July:

- o I was led to invite my pastor to the Henderson County prison for a worship service with about 15 brothers in Christ. I shared my testimony from **John 14:6**, and the men shared their testimonies of being free in Christ. My pastor did not anticipate being touched like he was.
- o I disciplined a woman (about our age) who has recently left a very legalistic church feeling quite disillusioned. It was evident in her life that her attempts to live by the law was condemning (**Romans 2:12**) and deadly (**Romans 5:20-21**). It was amazing to see healing in her life through the gospel of grace.
- o I continued discipling a married couple. God revealed to us that each spouse was setting up expectations (again, the law) for each other to meet. This has resulted in each spouse trying their best, apart from Christ, to meet those expectations of each other. We are praying for each spouse to focus on his and her individual relationship with Christ as Life, that will lead to each one bestowing grace (not law) upon each other.
- o I started discipling a 15-year old boy whose father has left home. I am building a trust relationship with him, and he appears open to God's truths. In our first session, I suggested he read a few verses from the gospel of John...he went home and read the whole book!

I look forward to sharing with you more in the months to come. I am so thankful for you and Gary.