

## *Riches Untold for You*

The Sistine Chapel was built within the Vatican immediately to the north of St. Peter's Basilica and completed in about 1481. The frescoes of the chapel, and in particular the ceiling and accompanying lunettes by Michelangelo, have been subject to a number of restorations.

The most recent took place between 1980 and 1994 at a cost of more than \$4.3 million. Not many of us can afford a ceiling like that. But God has placed an ever-changing fresco over our heads every day. The sky-blue ceiling and the star-spangled heavens are priceless, yet free.

Writing on that subject in his book, *Turning Points*, Dr. David Jeremiah, author and



senior pastor of the Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., points out that Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr. Gachet* brought \$82.5 million at Christie's, but "God gives us His beautiful world to enjoy at no charge. Have you paid your water bill recently? Your electric bill? The Lord gives us the warmth of His sunshine, the cool of His breezes, the irrigation of His rain without cost.

"At a political fundraiser, VIPs who gave \$4,000 each had their pictures taken with the president of the United States," Dr. Jeremiah continued. "But the King of kings welcomes us into His presence anytime, free of charge."

Charles Spurgeon, British Baptist preacher and author who lived from 1834 to 1892, said, "Scripture is the bank of heaven. You may draw from it as much as you please, without interference or hindrance."

Spurgeon and Dr. Jeremiah are right on point. God cares about our needs, and He is interested in the "little things" of our lives.

"He wants to give us a life that's abundant, and He wants us to share abundantly with others," Dr. Jeremiah said. "He wants us to freely receive and freely give. Trust Him with your needs, and learn to appreciate the riches of His grace."



*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich (Proverbs 10:22).*

– Beecher Hunter