

# IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

## [Part 2]

### learning from the letter to the Ephesians

*“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]*

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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#### **No pressure!**

As always there are 7 [sets of] questions in this study: that’s to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study guide.

#### **Priorities!**

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. There may not be time in the Community Group to address all the questions, but try to ensure in your Group that at the very least questions **4, 5 & 6** are all covered.

#### **Prayer!**

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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## 2. Eph.3.1-13 [w/b Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April]

*“.. to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ..”*

These verses see Paul go off on something of a tangent, the reason for which he gives at the end – namely, that the believers in Ephesus should not *“be discouraged because of my sufferings for you..”*

This ‘tangent’ interrupts Paul’s concern to pray home the truth of what he’s just been unfolding in chapter 2: but though in a sense they’re a tangent, these verses explain the way in which God makes that truth (the two being made one) a reality in our experience. The focus of this passage, therefore, is on Paul’s role as a preacher of the gospel.

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**1. Read the whole passage (Eph.3.1-13).** Paul refers to the fact that he was imprisoned as he wrote and is clearly aware that there might be some who found it difficult to think that God could be sovereign and yet allow His servant to suffer thus.

What sort of situations have there been in your life (if any) which have prompted you to wonder if God really is in charge?

How have you handled those sort of questions – either in your own life, or when others have raised them with you?

**2. Read Ephesians 3.1.** Paul was very conscious of his particular calling to bring the message to the *Gentiles*. It was that which invariably incurred the anger of his fellow Jews – and that which effectively lay behind his present imprisonment.

We each have our own ‘field of labour’, the particular spheres of influence in which the Lord has set us: how would you describe your own particular ‘field of labour’, at least for the present?

In what ways have there been circumstances, related to that, which have at least felt a bit like an imprisonment?

**3. Read Ephesians 3.2-5.** Christianity is a ‘revealed religion’. Paul insists here that the message he brought was essentially something *revealed* by God, and that his role in bringing that message from God was part of the way in which God sovereignly administered His grace.

Read **Galatians 1.11-17**. How was God’s message revealed to Paul according to what he narrates in these verses?

Why might God have kept those in former generations ‘in the dark’?

**4. Read Ephesians 3.6.** Paul now outlines what the heart of God's message actually is.

What three phrases does Paul use to highlight the amazing thing which God has done through the gospel?

Reflect for a moment on each of these phrases: which one(s) really strike home to you – and why?

**5. Read Ephesians 3.7-9.** The particular role which Paul himself was called to exercise in making this message known is what he proceeds here to describe.

What was the role which Paul was given?

In what ways does Paul here recognize God's grace in his life?

**6. Read Ephesians 3.10-12.** As Paul rounds off this section explaining God's work through his life as an apostle, he goes to the heart of God's purpose in Jesus.

What does Paul say has been God's intent?

How has this been brought to pass?

**7. Read Ephesians 3.13.** In this verse Paul concludes by exhorting his readers not to be discouraged by the fact that he has suffered for them.

Why might they have been discouraged by his sufferings?

What does Paul mean them to see should remove any thought of discouragement?