

IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

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 study 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 mainly to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study guide. Don’t feel any pressure to answer *every* question in your Community Group – almost certainly there won’t be the time for that!

Priorities!

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. As always there’s benefit in looking at all the questions, but the really key questions for us all as a fellowship are probably 2, 4 & 5: try to cover all the questions, but ensure you cover at least these!

Prayer!

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

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5. Eph.1.3-10 [w/b Sunday 5th February]

“..He chose us in Him ..”

There's so much in this opening section of Paul's letter – and it's of such huge importance – that one Sunday morning was clearly insufficient to cover it all! Hence our coming back with this week's study to look at the passage again.

If you didn't cover all the questions in last week's study, it may be that there will be benefit in taking a second week to look at that material. Alternatively, the questions in this week's material will help you (hopefully) to look further, and more fully, at the latter parts of the passage, by comparing other Bible passages.

The basic truth to which Paul alludes here is that “He chose us” – a truth which, when properly grasped, should generate simply heart-felt praise rather than any intellectual problems! It's this reality, God's 'choosing' love which is the foundation on which our faith in Jesus rests: it's therefore vital that we have a good grasp of this foundational truth

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1. **Read Ephesians 1.3-10** again. The fact that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ is traced back by Paul to God's having chosen us in love.

What really encouraged you in this passage and the sermon on it?

What, similarly, did you find really difficult?

2. **Read Psalm 139.** That God chose us in Christ 'before the creation of the world' is a truth consistently affirmed in the Scriptures.

How does this truth affect the writer of Psalm 139?

What does the knowledge that all the days 'ordained' for him "*were written in Your book before one of them came to be*" (v.16) do for the psalmist? How does it make him feel? And why?

Read **1 Thess.1.4-6** and **Phil.1.3-6**. How did Paul know that God had 'chosen' these believers? And why did that knowledge fill him with such confidence about them?

How do these passages encourage you?

3. **Read Romans 8.28-30.** Paul writes here about the purpose God long since formed, and how He sovereignly brings that purpose to pass.

What does he say is the culmination of God's purpose?

How does a clear grasp of this purpose of God help, strengthen and encourage us?

4. **Read Galatians 3.10-14** and **4.3-7**. 'Redemption' is a term taken from the slave market, whereby a slave was set free by a price being paid for him/her.

What are we told was the 'price' paid for our 'redemption'?

According to what Paul says in these two passages why did Christ redeem us?

5. **Read Psalm 103.1-14**. Forgiveness is the starting point of God's renewing work in His people: He gives us a new start and wipes away everything which stains our lives.

What does the psalmist suggest prompts God's forgiveness of us?

What does the psalmist say characterizes God's forgiveness of us?

Read **Ephesians 4.32**. 'Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive' [C S Lewis]. Why do we often find forgiving others so hard? How can we cultivate a forgiving spirit within us?

6. Read Romans 8.18-25. As in Ephesians 1.9 & 10, Paul speaks here about what God has 'willed' in and through His Son.

What are we meant to understand by 'the glorious freedom of the children of God' to which Paul refers?

How will that 'freedom' of the children of God be mirrored in the 'liberating' of 'the creation itself'?

7. Read Romans 11.33-36. Few verses capture the sheer expansiveness of the gospel in such a brief compass as v.36.

In what sense can the whole gospel be summed up in the first sentence of v.36?

What is meant by the statement that "***from** Him .. are all things*"?