

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 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 **1, 4 & 7** 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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12. Eph.2.4-10 [w/b Sunday 26th March]

“.. we are God’s workmanship ..”

These verses provide a powerful statement of the good news! We’re given to see not only what it is that God has done for us in Jesus, but what prompted Him to do it, and what His purpose was in so doing.

Moreover, through the careful way in which Paul sets out this statement that ‘it is by grace you have been saved’ (vv.5 & 8), we’re helped to see what part ‘good works’ play in our salvation: they are the *result* of, rather than the *reason for*, God’s gracious work in our lives.

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1. Read Ephesians 2.1-10. Both our faith and our ‘good works’ evidence the fact that where formerly we were ‘dead’ and ‘disobedient’, God has now made us alive with Christ.

What have been the areas of your life in which you’ve been most aware of there being real change since you were ‘made alive’ with Christ?

2. Read Ephesians 2.4-6. God loved us, even when we were dead in transgressions: He acted as He did, not because of anything in us.

Why can it sometimes be hard to believe that God loves us just as we are?

What are the three verbs Paul uses here to describe what's involved in God's having saved us, and how does each highlight the richness of God's salvation?

Why are they in the past tense?

3. Read Ephesians 2.6. Our salvation is bound up with our being united relationally to Christ, our being 'in Christ': what is true of Him has become true of us.

What are 'the heavenly realms' in which we're now 'seated with Him'?

What's the significance of our being now '*seated* with Him'?

4. Read Ephesians 2.7. Here Paul points to the first part of the reason *why* God has acted as He has for us in Jesus.

What does Paul say here was God's purpose in effecting salvation for us?

Read **Eph.4.29-32**: how might the kindness shown by God towards us in Jesus be expressed by ourselves in the way we relate to those around us?

5. **Read Ephesians 2.8**. It is by grace, and through faith, that we are saved: this verse underlines the priority of 'grace' over 'faith' in the salvation God has effected for us.

How is the priority of God's grace over our faith stressed by Paul in this verse?

What does Paul mean by indicating that the faith we exercise is to be seen as 'the gift of God'?

6. **Read Ephesians 2.9**. The consistent theme of the Scriptures is that it is emphatically *not* by any 'works' on our part that we are saved, but solely by the grace of God.

Read **Romans 3.19-31**: why, according to Paul, is 'boasting' excluded?

Read **2 Cor.11.16-30**: how does Paul explain his own 'boasting' here?

7. **Read Ephesians 2.10.** In this final verse of the passage Paul points to the second 'end' which God had in view in what He has done for us in Christ.

To what is God's work in our lives intended to lead? And how is that brought about?

Read **Titus 2.11-14** and consider the repeated references through that whole letter to 'good works' (1.16, 2.7, 2.14, 3.1, 3.8, and 3.14): how is the repeated exhortation to 'do what is good' compatible with the statement that 'it is by grace you have been saved'?