

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
“THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE”
(EPHESIANS 2:7)
JANUARY 28, 2007

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 2:7, “so in coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

INTRODUCTION

The passage in Ephesians 2:1-10 is one of the clearest descriptions of salvation in Christ that is found in the New Testament. This section of scripture contrasts a person’s pre-Christian life and his/her life after coming to Christ by faith. Throughout these verses, Paul reminds us of what God has done for us in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Why did God choose to intervene and save us from our hopeless condition of sin? The answer to this question is found in verse seven of this passage. Through this study, we will examine God’s motive for extending to us “the immeasurable riches of His grace” and how we should respond to this indescribable gift that has been lavished on all who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What do these verses tell you about the effects of being “dead in your transgressions and sins?” What does it really mean to be “dead in your sins”? When Paul is talking about this “state of being dead,” who is he referring to?

2. According to Ephesians 2:4-9, what are some of the wonderful gifts God has lavished upon those who have placed our faith in Christ? How might these truths help one to comprehend and respond to what Paul means by the statement, “immeasurable riches of his grace”?

3. What is the definition of “grace” for a believer in Christ? (Romans 3:23-26, 5:15, Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9)

4. What do you think the phrase “ages to come” means? Why do you think it is plural?

5. Because of the “immeasurable riches of his grace” that have been extended to believers in Christ, what do these verses tell us concerning the attitude and focus we should have in this life here on earth? (Matthew 6:19-21; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:11-12)

OUR WALK WITH GOD

1. The pagans in Ephesus tried to remove guilt by maiming themselves, abstaining from food and/or sex, giving money and sacrificing animals. How do people in our day try to remove guilt, other than by accepting God’s grace? Why do you think it is so difficult for people to accept God’s free gift of grace?

2. How might your life be different if God ceased to be gracious with you? What are some of the ways God has extended His grace to you in past days, weeks, months or years? How have you experienced His goodness?

3. Based on your understanding of God's indescribable gift of grace and the riches that will be lavished on us in eternity, how should this change what we value and how we spend our time in this life? What changes do you need to make today in order to gain a proper perspective regarding our citizenship in heaven? How might your small group help you in this endeavor to change?

GOING DEEPER

Read Romans 6:4, 8:1-4, 8:15-18, 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:6, 3:12-15. From these verses, what are some of the eternal assurances, promised blessings and commands for living this life that are given to those who are "in Christ"?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT

"Religion has been defined as man's attempts to reach God through his own efforts. Christianity is God's attempts to reach man through Jesus Christ."

Excerpt from "The Book of Ephesians" – Eddie Rasnake