

# Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

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## Study 9: But God!

**READ** Eph 2:1-7 and John 11:17-44 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

But God! "These two words," says Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones, "in and of themselves, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel." Paul had described the plight of the pre-converted Christian in vv. 1-3 as one of great hopelessness and inability to change. However, because of God's mercy, love, grace and kindness He rescued such people from their trouble by uniting them to Christ. Through this union the believer has now been made alive, raised up and is seated with Christ in Heaven.

**Main lesson:** God, by grace, raised the believer from death to life, bringing him/her from enslavement to freedom and from condemnation to honour, displaying God's grace through the eternal ages.

### Questions:

1. How are the words "But God" significant, especially in the context of this passage?
2. What does Paul mean when he states that God "made us alive"? In what sense were we dead and are now alive? See Col 2:13-15.
3. Read the account of Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11:17-44, particularly vv. 38-44). How might this physical raising from the dead correlate with our spiritual raising? See 1 Thess 2:14; Acts 16:14; John 6:44.
4. In what way are we now seated in the heavenly places with Christ (v. 6)?

5. A. From vv. 4-7, what was it that motivated God to save you? Elaborate.  
  
B. Does your view of God begin with these character qualities? If not, why not? Note that His discipline is because of His love (Heb. 12:6).
6. What does this passage teach about our union with Christ and why is the idea of "union with Christ" so important, especially for understanding our new identity?
7. V. 7 describes the believer as a symbol of God's grace and kindness throughout the ages. How does that make you feel? How does this motivate you to live as salt and light today? Give practical examples of what this might look like.
8. Why should God's salvation humble us?
9. How did Jesus respond to the man from whom He had cast demons when he asked to follow Him (Mk 5:18-19)? How might you apply this to your own life?
10. What has been your greatest take-away from this study?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Praise:** *God who is rich in mercy, abounding in grace, and full of love and kindness*  
**Thank:** *the Lord for showing amazing grace to save you from your deplorable state*  
**Pray:** *that you would grow in your identity in Christ despite hardship and trials*