



# Mature in Christ

# Mature in Christ

## *MiC - studies and topics*

	Page
study 1* - Justification ( <i>Part 1</i> )	4
Justification ( <i>Part 2</i> )	10
study 2 - Grace & Faith ( <i>Part 1</i> )	12
Grace & Faith ( <i>Part 2</i> )	18
study 3 - Living For God	20
study 4 - Hearing God Speak	26
study 5 - Speaking to God	32
study 6 - A New Family	36
study 7 - A New Purpose	42

---

\* Please note you will spend two weeks doing study 1 and study 2

# Tips for using MiC

**1. 2. 3.** The numbered questions can be answered *directly* from the passage, so make sure you look for the answers in the text of the Bible.



The '*Think it Through*' questions are to help you think further about what you have learned and to check how well you understand what you have discovered from answering the numbered questions, you may not find the answer *directly* from the passage.



It is worth making sure you understand the meaning of key words that are used in the Bible passages, so look out for these and the footnotes that are given to help you.



Remember that '*a text without a context can be a con*', so make sure you look at the verses surrounding the passage you are studying in order to help keep you on the right track. We often don't get things wrong because we are being dishonest but rather because we are mistaken.

# M

There are verses to memorise. The psalmist talks about hiding God's word in his heart so as to avoid sinning against God (Ps. 119:11), why not try committing some of God's word to memory.

# Justification – Part 1

## Study 1 (part 1): Romans 5 vs.8-9

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

<sup>9</sup>**Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!**

<sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation (NIV).

## **stop and think**

Read Romans 5:8-9. What do these two verses mean?  
Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read Romans 5:6-11 so that you can see the section you are studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in Romans 5:8-9**

---

♦ **justified**—to be declared right with God, to be found not guilty

**save**—to rescue, deliver from danger, to help in some way

**wrath**—anger, fury

**Sinners**— those with an attitude of rebellion against God in thoughts and deeds

1. What did God show us?

---

2. When did Christ die for us?

---

3. What did Christ do for us?

---



## **THINK IT THROUGH**

*What does it mean to be a 'sinner'? See vss.6 & 9-10*

---

---

*How would you describe God's love?*

---

---

*What does the phrase 'Christ died for us' mean?*

---

---

---

*What did you do to deserve Jesus' death for you?*

---

---

---

4. Jesus' sacrificial death ('his blood') means we are now...

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*According to Romans 4:5 God justifies the wicked. How is this possible given that we are all guilty sinners? See Romans 5:12-19, Philippians 3:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.*

---

---

---

*Justification is sometimes described as the 'sweet' or 'divine exchange'. Can you explain why?*

---

---

5. Explain in your own words the significance of the phrase 'how much more' in vs.9? See also vs.10-11!

---

---

---

6. What will happen to us concerning God's wrath?

---

---

---

---

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*Are you right with God and if so on what basis do you expect to be saved from his wrath?*

---

---

*What should your attitude be towards God's future judgement of the world?*

---

---

*How do you know that God loves you?*

---

---

*How have you responded to God's offer of rescue?*

---

---

*On judgement day as you stand before God, if He were to ask you why He should not pour out his wrath on you, what would you say?*

---

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also 1 Peter 2:22-25, 3:18 and Romans 3:21-26

## **memorise Romans 5:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!



# MiC - Quotes for discussion!

[Justification]...is at the heart of the gospel. Yet there are many people in the church who have trouble defining the very meaning of justification. – R. C. Sproul

The doctrine of justification by faith is like Atlas: it bears a world on its shoulders. – *Jim Packer*

A hundred [charismatic] experiences and a moving testimony of how I felt when I invited Christ into my heart will not make me right with God. – *Dr. J. H. Armstrong*

...it is not simply innocence that gets me into the kingdom of God, it is righteousness. The point is there is a double transfer. – R. C. Sproul

Christ wove a perfect garment of righteousness for thirty-three years only to give it away to those who trust Him alone to save them. – *John Bunyan*

Jesus not only died for us; He lived for us as well. – *Dr. R. C. Sproul*

Christ was treated as if he were me (and punished) so that I can be treated as if I were him (and justified). Christ took our place on the cross and was punished, so that we, dressed in [His] righteous life, with his pass-papers to eternal life, might go free. Christ swapped places with us. – *Richard Coekin*

Justification is a declaration based upon the righteousness of Christ imputed to the believer through faith alone while the sinner remains a sinner, but not the same sinner he was. – Dr. B. Bickel

[The doctrine of imputation] if you take it as the Bible sets it forth as a whole, involves three great acts of imputation. First, Adam's first sin is imputed to his descendants. Second, the sins of saved people are imputed to Christ. Third, Christ righteousness is imputed to saved people. – *J. M. Machen*

## Justification – Part 2

### Study 1 (part 2): Philippians 3:4-9♦

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

<sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith (NIV).

---

♦ Read the passage and then spend a moment thinking about how it relates to study 1 (part 1 - Romans 5:8-9).



Summarise the main point of this passage in no more than 1-2 sentences?



What questions does this passage raise in your mind and how would you answer them from the passage?



What does this passage change for you personally?

## Grace and faith – Study 2

### Study 2 (part 1): Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature<sup>□</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.** <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (NIV).

## **stop and think**

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What do these two verses mean? Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 so that you can see the section you are studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in Ephesians 2:8-9**



---

♦ **Grace**—generosity, kindness, undeserved mercy or favour

**Faith**—trusting, relying or depending upon someone or something

1. What has happened to us by grace

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*From what have you been saved? See vss.1-3.*

---

---

*Why is grace such an essential part of being saved? See vss.4-5 and 8!*

---

---

*What needed to happen for you and I to be saved by God's grace and why? Compare vss.1 and 5.*

---

---

2. What does faith (or trust) have to do with salvation?

---

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*Why are we save 'through faith' and not something else like 'through' repentance or love?*

---

---

*What does it mean to 'trust God'?*

---

---

---

*What is the appropriate response to God's grace?*

---

---

3. Is salvation our own work?

---

4. Salvation comes to us from God in what way?

---

5. What works can we contribute to our salvation?

---

6. What credit can we take for our salvation?

---



## **THINK IT THROUGH**

*From this passage what would you say to the person who thinks they are not good enough to be saved?*

---

---

---

*Whom can you thank for your salvation?*

---

*Why is it inappropriate for Christians to boast about being saved or to look down on others who are not saved?*

---

---

*Summarise below what you have learned about salvation, grace and faith from this study?*

---

---

---

*Have you responded personally to God by putting your trust in what he has done for you through Jesus?*

---

---

*According to vs.10 how does works fit into the life of a person who has been saved by God's grace through faith?*

---

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also Matthew 5:20, 48, Luke 18:9-14, John 1:9-13 and  
Romans 4:16-25

## **memorise Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.



## MiC - Quotes for discussion!

Grace means there is nothing I can do to make God love me more, and nothing I can do to make God love me less. – *Philip Yancey*

Place no faith in your works; place no faith in your faith! Place all of your trust in the object of your faith: the righteousness of Christ! – *Don Kistler*

The Biblical gospel stands or falls with the concept of imputation.  
– *Dr. R. C. Sproul*

Justification is by faith alone, but NOT by the faith that is alone.  
Justification is by a WORKING faith. – *Dr. J. H. Gerstner*

Many today are too preoccupied with looking at their faith rather than faith's object. – *Dr. J. R. Beeke*

# Grace and Faith – Study 2

## Study 2 (part 2): Matthew 19:30-20:16<sup>♦</sup>

<sup>30</sup>But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius\* for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>“About the third hour\* he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went.

“He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup>“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup>“The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup>‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup>“So the last will be first, and the first will be last (NIV).”

---

♦ Read the passage and then spend a moment thinking about how it relates to the first part of study 2 (Ephesians 2:8-9).

\* A denarius was the wage for a days work for a labourer

\* the third hour would be nine in the morning



Summarise the main point of this passage in no more than 1-2 sentences?



What questions does this passage raise in your mind and how would you answer them from the passage?



What does this passage change for you personally?

# Living for God – Study 3

## Study 3: Titus 2:11-13

<sup>1</sup>You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup>Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup>Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

<sup>6</sup>Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup>In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup>and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

<sup>9</sup>Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup>and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

**<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

<sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. <sup>15</sup>These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you (NIV).

## **stop and think**

Read Titus 2:11-13. What do these verses mean?  
Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read Titus 2:1-15 so that you can see the section you are studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in Titus 2:11-13**

---

♦ **Grace**—generosity, kindness, undeserved mercy or favour

**Salvation**—being rescued from something

**All men**—all people everywhere (not every single person)

**Passions**—a person's desires or the things they long to have

1. What has already appeared?

---

2. What has this brought and to whom?

---

3. What (or who) is yet to appear?

---



## **THINK IT THROUGH**

*How exactly has the grace of God brought salvation? Think back over the last four studies!*

---

---

---

---

*If Jesus is both Saviour and God, what attitude should I have towards him?*

---

---

4. While we are waiting for the 'blessed hope', what should we say 'No' to?

---

---

5. What positive things will we be doing instead?

---

---

6. How are we taught or motivated to do this? See also Titus 3:4-6.

---

---

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*From this passage what would you say to the person who says that it does not matter how I live now that Jesus has saved me?*

---

---

*Do good deeds and godly living come as a result of God's grace or in order to earn God's grace? Try to explain your answer?*

---

---

---

---

*What is God's role in your effort to live a godly life?*

---

---

---

---

---

*What worldly desires do you struggle with?*

---

---

*How will you be able to say 'No' to them?*

---

---

*If I am constantly giving in to worldly passions or lacking in self-control etc. what might I be able to conclude about the grace of God in my life and/or the teaching I have received?*

---

---

*Can you take the credit for living God's way? Try to explain your answer!*

---

---

---

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also Romans 8:9-10, 12-14, Philippians 2:12-13, Colossians 1:9-14, Galatians 5:16-25

## **memorise Titus 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## MiC - Quotes for discussion!

Grace--there is nothing I can do to make you love me more, to make you love me less than you do...Grace loves the sinner all I am and all I'll ever be. Makes me a winner whatever lies the devil throws at me. - *Stuart Townsend*

The sinner who has saving faith is a regenerate person. He is indwelt by the Holy Spirit....Those who possess saving faith necessarily, inevitably, and immediately begin to manifest the fruits of faith. – *Dr. R. C. Sproul*

On several occasions during my Christian life, I have been offered quick fix methods of obtaining holiness without the hard work of self-discipline...They all turned out to be waterless springs, promising things they were unable to deliver...Therefore, please do not listen to people who say they have a quick-fix method to reach holiness. – *John Chapman*

The law says, “You must, you ought”, while grace causes a person to say, “I want to!” – *Steve McVey*

A grace-perspective lets us see the commands not as obligations, but as opportunities for the life of Christ to be revealed through us. – *Steve McVey*

Our love for God, expressed through obedience to Him, is to be a response to His love, not a means of trying to earn it. – *Jerry Bridges*

I am to work at my salvation because God is at work...Some Christians have just given up in the quest for holiness – *John Chapman*

# Hearing God Speak – Study 4

## Study 4: 2 Timothy 3:15-16

<sup>10</sup>You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup>persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup>In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** <sup>16</sup>**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV).

## **stop and think**

Read 2 Timothy 3:15-16. What do these two verses mean? Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 so that you can see the section you are studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in 2 Timothy 3:15-16**

---

♦ **Scripture**—the words of God written down, the Bible

**Faith**—the attitude of reliance, trust or dependence on someone or something

1. How much of Scripture is God-breathed? See 2 Peter 3:15-16!

---

---

2. Who is the ultimate author of the Bible?

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*What is the difference between the Bible being God-breathed and simply inspired?*

---

---

---

---

*What is the significance (if any) of the Bible being God-breathed? See 2 Peter 1:20-21!*

---

---

*How can I hear God speak? And how should this affect my attitude towards the Bible?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What role does the Bible play in my salvation?

---

4. List and explain the four uses of the Bible in the life of a Christian?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*If the Bible is really God-breathed what does this mean about its authority over your life?*

---

---

*Does the Bible need supplementing with other things? See also Hebrews 1:1-4 and 2 Peter 1:3.*

---

---

---

---

*In practice do you think the Bible is sufficient and supreme in determining for **you** how you behave and what you believe? And if not why not?*

---

---

---

---

*In practice what do you think it means that God's word is sufficient?*

---

---

---

---

*How often do you read the Bible?*

---

---

*What is your attitude towards the parts of the Bible you find hard to accept?*

---

---

*What steps can you take to make the Bible more a part of your life?*

---

---

---

---

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also Psalm 19:1-14, Luke 24:27 and 44, Ephesians 6:17, 1 Timothy 5:18, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:20-21

## **memorise 2 Timothy 3:15-16**

the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

# MiC - Quotes for discussion!

[The Bible] should be thought of as God preaching...God the Father preaching God the Son in the power of God the Holy [Spirit]. – Jim Packer

Apart from being the number one best-seller of all time, the Bible is probably also number one for being 'the most misunderstood book'. – John Dickson

The Bible [is a book] for all to 'read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest', for their soul's health and as the means of their salvation. – Jim packer

The Bible is the Word of God. By this we mean that the Creator of the universe chose to communicate with us in a lasting way in the pages of a book. – John Dickson

If anyone were to show me that apartheid is biblical or Christian...I would burn my Bible and cease to be a Christian. - Desmond Tutu

There is no better way for the [Christian] to be pruned than through studying and applying the Bible to his own heart and situation. – Billy Graham

All Bible students carry around with them all their lives a quiverful of unsolved problems, as well as their quota of God-taught certainties. – Jim Packer

We get in touch with God and hear his voice in a very simple, practical and unconfusing way; by reading words on a page! – John Dickson

# Speaking to God– Study 5

## Study 5: Philippians 4:6

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (NIV).





Summarise the main point of this passage in no more than 1-2 sentences?



What questions does this passage raise in your mind and how would you answer them from the passage?



What does this passage change for you personally? How does it apply to you?

## Some reflection

In your prayers or devotional times (Quiet time), the following word “ACTS” can be very helpful in giving structure to your prayers. A small amount of time can be given to each of the four letters.

**A for Adoration:** Spend time praising God for who He is and what He has done for you in and through the person of Jesus Christ.

**C for Confession:** Talk to God about your sin, admit that you have failed him. Try to think of specific areas where you have failed from the previous twenty-four hours.

**T for Thanksgiving:** Spend time thanking God for all his blessings and the gospel. Start worrying if you cannot think of more than twenty things you can thank God for.

**S for Supplication:** This simply means you spend time bringing your requests or personal needs and the needs of others to God. Again be specific rather than generally asking God to just “bless everyone”.

## MiC - Quotes for Discussion!

Grace changes our concept of the nature of prayer. It stimulates a continuing prayer relationship as opposed to a daily prayer routine.  
– *Steve McVey*

If the request is wrong, God says, ‘No’ If the timing is wrong, God says ‘Slow’. If you are wrong, God says ‘Grow’. But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, ‘Go!’ – Bill Hybels

I believe that prayer is the measure of the man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is. So that how we pray is as important a question as we can ever face? – J. I Packer

...after all the difficulties have been duly recognised and all the dangers of legalism properly acknowledged, the fact remains that unless we plan to pray we will not pray...it is better to pray often with brevity that rarely but at length. But the worse option is simply not to pray. – D. A. Carson

## Janelle's Story

*For me prayer is a struggle. I struggle with the discipline of praying regularly. When the children were babies I got into the habit of praying on the go, which I still do.*

*I find, though, that I need to have regular time as well, where I go through my list of people that I want to remember. I like to tie this to my Bible reading. It helps me think God's way. I struggle with persevering in praying for people to become Christians when nothing happens or they get further away from God.*

*Then I need to remind myself that God is in control. I need to keep my eyes on him and not start thinking that if I prayed better then he would answer.*

*Let me share some of the joys of praying as well. When God answers me I find myself marvelling at his graciousness in stooping down and even bothering to listen-let alone answer. It reminds me of who he is and who I am as his child. Praying with someone else on a weekly basis has been a great joy, It's good to share and pray together and hold each other accountable.*

*Praying is a very personal thing. It's not a magic formula or a chant to convince the gods. It's part of the wonder that the God of the Universe wants to be in relationship with me and allows me to talk with him.*

(Quoted in Back to Basics by Steve Cree and Dave Thurston, pg.25)

## A New family – Study 6

### Study 6: Hebrews 10:24-25

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV).**

## **stop and think**

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What do these two verses mean?  
Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read Hebrews 10:19-25 so that you can see the section you are  
studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in Hebrews 10:24-25**



---

♦ **the Day**—the day Jesus will appear to judge the world

1. What are we to consider?

---

2. What two things are we to spur one another on to do?

---



## **THINK IT THROUGH**

*How can you spur others on to love and good deeds?*

---

---

*What part should the Bible and prayer play in this?*

---

---

3. What are we to keep doing (without giving up)?

---

4. What were some in the habit of doing?

---

5. Why are we to meet together?

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*When and where do you meet with your new family? And why is this so important?*

---

---

*What do you think would happen if you stopped meeting with your new family? See Hebrews 2:1, 3:14.*

---

---

*What do you think stops Christians from meeting up with other Christians?*

---

---

*Can you list the times in the week when you meet with other Christians?*

---

---

*When you meet with other Christians, what do you spend most of your time talking about? Why is this an important question to consider?*

---

---

6. What special reason is there to encourage one another?

---

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*How does 'the Day' affect your attitude to other Christians?*

---

---

*Who are you seeking to encourage towards love and good deeds (godliness)?*

---

---

*Who is encouraging you in your godliness?*

---

---

*What priority do you give to meeting with God's people? What effect does this have on how you use your time?*

---

---

*How would you describe your attitude to church? Do you go to serve or to be served?*

---

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 3:5-17

## **memorise Hebrews 10:24-25**

<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



## MiC - Quotes for discussion!

Church activity is people-centred rather than programme-centred.  
– Chester & Timmis

The local church is to be a family where the married and the single find true friendship and fellowship in the gospel. – Philip Eveson

If you were to look up in a concordance the expressions ‘one another’ and ‘each other’, you would see how strongly the New Testament writers emphasise ministering to one another – *Jerry bridges*

One of the problems of those who find themselves unwillingly single is the failure of the church to be a community of friendship.  
– David Atkinson

Church exists wherever believers are covenanted together under the authority of the word of God. – Timmis & Chester

A Christian ‘church’ is an assembly called together by God through the Christian gospel. – *Richard Coekin*

**Read Hebrews 10:24-25 again. How would you define church or the gathering of God’s people from these verses? In other words, complete the following sentence:**

*‘Church’ is whenever...*

---

---

---

---

---

## A New Purpose – Study 7

### Study 7: Colossians 4:5-6

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup>And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup>**Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** <sup>6</sup>**Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.** (NIV).

## **stop and think**

Read Colossians 4:5-6. What do these two verses mean? Are there any words you don't understand?♦

## **put the verses into context**

Read Colossians 4:2-6 so that you can see the section you are studying in its original context

## **summarise below the main thing being said in Colossians 4:5-6**



---

♦ **Grace**—generosity, kindness, undeserved mercy or favour

1. How should we behave towards outsiders?

---

2. What should our attitude be as we relate to outsiders?

---



## THINK IT THROUGH

*Who do you think are the 'outsiders'? See Colossians 1:2.*

---

---

*What does it mean to 'act wisely'? See also 1 Peter 3:15-16.*

---

---

*How might living wisely lead to opportunities to talk about God?*

---

---

*What stops you from taking the opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others?*

---

---

*Does the passage say we have to create the opportunities to talk to people? If not what does it say?*

---

---

7. As we talk to outsiders, what two things should mark our conversation?

---

---

8. What will this help us to do?

---



## **THINK IT THROUGH**

*What things do you need to eliminate from your speech in order for it to be gracious and appropriate?*

---

---

---

*What does 'seasoned with salt' mean? How might you make your speech more salty?*

---

---

---

*Do you feel ready to explain to someone your trust in Jesus Christ?*

---

*How can you prepare yourself to explain your trust in Christ better?*

---

---

*On a scale of 1 to 10 how concerned are you that others come to know Christ as you have (1 being not concerned at all and 10 being very concerned)?*

---

*Do you have a list of people you are specifically concerned for? If so write their names below!*

---

---

---

---

*If yes, are you praying for opportunities to share your love for Christ with these people?*

---

*When was the last time you shared Christ with someone?*

---

## **other parts of the Bible worth looking at**

See also Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, 2  
Corinthians 2:14-17, 1 Peter 3:15

## **memorise Colossians 4:5-6**

.<sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

# MiC - Quotes for discussion!

Grace-based evangelism is nothing less than an excitement about Jesus that is contagious to others. – Steve McVey

Having experienced God's grace, we are called on to extend that grace to others. The evidence of whether we are living by His grace is to be found in the way we treat other people. – *Jerry Bridges*

If we see ourselves as sinners and totally unworthy in ourselves of God's compassion, patience, and forgiveness, then we will want to be gracious to others. – *Jerry bridges*

I think I have seen some Christians whose obsession with evangelism leads them to neglect the development of their Christ-like character...Holiness, then does not compete with evangelism. Holiness enhances evangelism. – *John Chapman*

## Books for further reading

Mark Meynell, *Cross Examined*, IVP

Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace*, Navpress

John Chapman, *A Sinner's Guide to Holiness*, Matthias Media

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*, IVP

Don Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, IVP

Payne & Jensen, *Guidance and the Voice of God*, Matthias Media

John Chapman, *Know and Tell the Gospel*, Matthias media