

WITNESS – Reaching out to others ***(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)***

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

1 Relationships

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

2 Health

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

3 Wealth

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

4 Education

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

5 Church

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

Amazing Grace

Ephesians 2:1–10

3

Purpose:

To see how God has brought us from death to life by the riches of his grace.

WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)

What is the most fulfilling work you have ever done?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord ***(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)***

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

Pray your “thank you” to God

WORD (Aim for 40—45 minutes)

One of the best-known verses in the book of Ephesians is 2:8, “By grace you have been saved, through faith.” *Grace* has often been defined by the acrostic, God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In this study we'll consider some of the riches we have been given in Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1–10. In verse 1 Paul says, “You were dead in your transgressions and sins.” How does sin kill?
2. In verses 2–3 Paul mentions three negative influences on our lives which were later put into the formula of “the world, the flesh and the devil.” According to Paul, how did each of these affect our lives as non-Christians?

3. How have you seen these influences at work?

4. According to verses 4–7, what motivated God to save us?

Why are these motives so remarkable when you consider our condition as non-Christians?

5. What does Paul mean when he says we have been “made alive,” “raised” and “seated” with Christ (vv. 5–6)?

How does our union with Christ relate to the fulfillment of God purpose stated in 2:7 and 1:9–10?

6. When Paul says that our salvation is not from ourselves (vv. 8–9), is he saying that we play no role in our salvation? Explain.

7. Does verse 10 contradict verses 8–9? Explain.

8. What good works has God prepared for you to do?

9. What has hindered you from doing these?

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