

‘Lavished’
A short written devotional
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The letter that Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus is comprised of two major themes. The first being the fact that Christ has reconciled all creation to Himself through His death, burial, and resurrection. The second is that Christ has united people from all nations to Himself and to one another through His Bride, the local Church. If you have a copy of God’s Word close to you, open up to Ephesians 1:7-10. Such a strong sentence in our New Testament text. What sticks out to me are the following phrases in verses 7-8, which state, ‘In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which he lavished upon us.’ That word ‘lavished’ really sticks out to me. It comes from the greek verb ‘perisseuo’ ἐπερίσσευσεν, which literally means to go over and above, to be superfluous. This is a regularly occurring word in the Greek NT as it occurs 39 times. This Greek verb encapsulates what God has done for us by sending His Son so that we might be forgiven of our trespasses. If we’re all honest, we want God to forgive us of our sins, right? We want to be in Heaven with Christ, and this is only possible through His blood, by His Grace, with our faith, as Paul will later explain in chapter 2. So, my point is this: if God has gone over and beyond on our behalf in His redemption plan, how are we going over and beyond for Him? How are we exercising ‘perisseuo’ in our own relationship with Christ? Do we go over and beyond in serving our King? One way to tell this is how we treat our neighbors. If you are going the extra mile for those around you in your home, neighborhood, and Church, odds are you are seeking to serve Christ. We often expect others to do ‘lavishly’ for us, but shouldn’t we do the same for others? Let’s focus on ‘perisseuo’ ἐπερίσσευσεν this September.