SERIES ON EPHESIANS

TITLE: "ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS"

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LOCATION: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SANTA CLARITA BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Introduction

II. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:3

> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

III. Main Idea – All Christians gain <u>every</u> blessing in Christ at the point of salvation! These blessings are in the invisible, heavenly realm, and so we must access these blessings by faith as we live out our lives in the visible, physical realm.

IV. The Text (1:3)

A. Our main obligation: Worship God, the only One Who is intrinsically blessed - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*

- This verse begins a single sentence of thanksgiving from verse 3 to 14, focusing on Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and past, present, and future blessings!
- The word "*bless*" is used 3 times: as an adjective, then a verb, then a noun
- God's blessedness includes: (a) His intrinsic blessedness, (b) the source of all blessing, and (c) receiving our worship as we "bless" God by magnifying His blessedness in the world
- Paul stresses God's Trinitarian nature at the outset of this panoply of praise: God the Father is related to Jesus Christ in the relation of an eternal Father-Son relationship

B. Our comprehensive blessings: Every spiritual blessing - *who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing*

- The is no blessing that we lack!
- These blessings are spiritual, not physical, showing that Christianity is mainly "other worldly"
- Our physical blessings come as spiritual blessings impact our physical lives

C. Our blessings' source: The heavenly realms – *in the heavenly places*

- The phrase "*heavenly places*" (literally "heavenlies") is used only in Ephesians:
  - **1:3** – Place of spiritual blessings
  - **1:20; 2:6** – Place we sit in Christ
  - **3:10** – Place of the angels
  - **6:12** – Place of spiritual warfare
- Because we live in both the physical and the heavenly realms, we must learn how to live with 2 natures (Galatians 2:20; 5:17), 2 existences (Philippians 3:21), and 2 outlooks (6:12)

D. Our blessings' sphere: Christ! – *in Christ*

- Spiritual blessings are only accessible through our relationship with Christ
- To be in Christ is to abide in Christ, which in practical terms, means to remain with Christ and to refuse to ever leave Him!