

# L10 | Ephesians | "All Spiritual Blessings Pt. 3" | Eph. 1:3-6

## I. Intro/Review:

- We turn to the scripture just read, Ephesians 1, and as we get underway in our examination of this great epistle I want to remind you that Ephesians is not written to the well-educated, the Christian intellect, nor solely to pastors of churches, as the pastoral epistles. This epistle is written to the church the body of Christ. Therefore, it is God's good pleasure to reveal to you Himself and His purpose in Christ for your glory and joy!
- The blessed God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us with the blessings of the inheritance trusted to His Son.
  - These blessings are described in great detail
    1. All - extent
    2. Spiritual - kind
    3. In Heavenly Places - vocationally
    4. In Christ - identity
    5. Holy and without blame in love - purpose
  - These spiritual blessings are the Word to us-ward of His counsel as they relate to the carrying out of His eternal purpose in Christ - from beginning to end and all needed in-between.
    - Chosen
    - Predestinated
    - Accepted
    - Redemption
  - God has blessed us with "all" the blessings - the measure and extent of the blessings
  - God has blessed us with all "spiritual" blessings - the kind of blessings in contrast to carnal blessings; therefore, these blessings will abide forever.

## II. Preview:

- Consider the location of position of the blessings
  - "in heavenly places"
  - "in Christ"
- Spiritual blessings are according to God's choosing

## III. Sermon:

**[3] - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places:"**

- "in heavenly places"
  - These spiritual blessings are "in heavenly places" (heavenlies) where Christ currently

resides

- Two main words translated "heaven(s)" or some variation
  1. **"epouranios"/(ep-oo-ron-ee-os)** | adjective (describing things with the nature of heaven, as opposed to earth)
  2. **"ouranos"/(oo-ron-os')** | noun (describing not things of heaven, but the cosmological location of heaven)
- These spiritual blessing directly relate and correspond to the heavenlies
  1. **"epouranios"/(ep-oo-ron-ee-os) - description**
    - **{Eph 1:20}** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
      - Heavenly seating
    - **{Eph 2:6}** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
      - Heavenly seating
    - **{Eph 3:10}** To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
      - Heavenly principalities and powers
    - **{Eph 6:12}** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
      - Heavenly rulers spiritual wickedness
    - Used in other places in Paul's epistles
      - 1 Cor. 15:40, 48, 49 - "celestial bodies"/"image of the heavenly"
      - Php. 2:10 - "knee"
      - 2 Tim. 4:18 - "kingdom"
    - Used in other places
      - Heb. 3:1 - "calling"
      - Heb. 6:4 - "gift"
      - Heb. 8:5 - "tabernacle" (heavenly things as shown in the tabernacle)
      - Heb. 9:23 - "pattern"
      - Heb. 11:16 - "country/city"
      - Heb. 12:22 - "Jerusalem"
      - Matt. 18:35 - "Father"
      - Jn. 3:12 - "born again"

## 2. "ouranos"/(oo-ron-os') - location

- **{Eph 1:10}** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
- **{Eph 3:15}** Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
- **{Eph 4:10}** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
- **{Eph 6:9}** And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.
- These spiritual blessings are heavenly, heavenly spiritual blessings - not to be confused that the spiritual blessings are things of heaven.
  - Country, city, Jerusalem, kingdom, and knee are not "spiritual", but can be heavenly and in heavenly places
- In Ephesians these heavenly spiritual blessings as we will see are not only "spiritual", but "heavenly", "in the heavenly places", "in heavenlies".
  - Further in this chapter and epistle we will gain a better understanding of why they are "in heavenly places".
  - Paul right now is introducing that with such blessings we have been "blessed" with.
    - Examine in contrast to "blessing" and "promises" with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
      - Genesis 27:27-29 - spoke the blessing that God gave to Abraham
        - Genesis 28:10-15 - God speaks the blessing to Jacob (Gen. 12:1-3)
        - Romans 9:9-12 - the word of promise
        - Hebrews 6
      - "in thee" - Christ
      - Earthly, spiritual blessings
- Let us get a sense of these "spiritual blessings" being "in heavenly places".
  - In other words, "spiritual blessings" can be "in earth" or earthly spiritual blessings.
  - Eph. 1:10 - Christ's inheritance concerns both heaven and earth
  - Eph. 1:20ff - Focus on Christ's inheritance in the heavenlies
  - Eph. 2:6 - where has He seated us
  - Eph. 3:10 - we make known something to the current occupants of the heavenlies
  - Eph. 3:15 - if He seated us in heaven which part of the family are we
  - Eph. 4:1 - vocation is a heavenly one

- Calling (Php. 3:14, 20)
- Eph. 4:10 - corresponds to the fulness of His inheritance
- **Summary** - these spiritual blessings are specifically mentioned to be "in heavenly places" or heavenly to introduce the particular realm they serve in Christ's inheritance.
  - Therefore, God did not bless us with all spiritual blessings, He blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. He did not bless us with all spiritual blessing in earthly places.
  - Unlike Israel we have no promise of heavenly things coming to earth, but rather us going from earth to heaven.
    - There is a similarity of "heavenly" between God's new creature and the Israel of God; however, their fulness is different - Israel heaven on earth, the BoC from earth to heaven.
    - Nonetheless, both will be "gathered together in one" (Eph. 1:10)
- **"in Christ"**
  - This further description of the heavenly spiritual blessings denotes their source.
  - Christ is the reason for not only them being heavenly, but also spiritual.
    - Christ is the reason why Israel and the Body of Christ can share spiritual things
      - Romans 15:27 - "partakers of their spiritual things"
        - Rom. 3:19-26 - "grace" vs. "law" (justification)
        - Rom. 6:14 - "grace" vs. "law" (sanctification)
        - 2 Cor. 3:4-6, 17-18 - "old testament" vs. "new testament"
        - Gal. 4:26 - "law" and "grace" (mothers)
  - Yet, these spiritual blessings are not simply "in Christ" they are "in heavenly places" and in connection with these heavenly spiritual blessings in Christ there is mystery tied to them - "the mystery of Christ".
    - The mystery of Christ not only reveals God's purpose He hid in Christ regarding the heavenly places, but in view of providing for its fulness the eternal purpose He is able to fulfill.
      - Eph. 1:9-10, 3:1ff

#### IV. Conclusion:

- The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ trusted all things to the Son in whom all treasures of wisdom and understanding were hid - Christ was, is, and will forever be the Word.
- These all things consisted of the creation of creatures to share in and be to the praise of His glory of whom the Word would be the firstborn of brethren.

- These creatures would dwell in both the heaven and earth. In the Father's love to the glorification of His Son choose to bless these creatures in His Son.
  - These creatures would be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places and on earth in His Son in love before Him.
- These all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ He has blessed us with, we are His creatures Whom He choose.
- Next lesson we will learn more about this choosing of us, that it, was and is "in Him (Christ)" and purpose to be holy and without blame.
  - We will understand more of God choosing us in understanding that He ultimately choose His Son!