

In Christ

Part 2

Ephesians 1

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9** he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **13** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

In Christ - there is every Spiritual Blessing

Vs. 3

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- *This describes both the kind of blessings and the location of those blessings. These are **spiritual** blessings, which can never be bought with money and are far better than material blessings.*
- *These blessings are ours **in the heavenly places in Christ**, they are higher, better, and more secure than earthly blessings.*
- This means that every spiritual blessing we receive, is because of Christ.
- This means that God not only will, but has already bless those who are in Christ.

“Our thanks are due to God for all temporal blessings; they are more than we deserve. But our thanks ought to go to God in thunders of hallelujahs for spiritual blessings. A new heart is better than a new coat... To be an heir of God is better than being the heir of the greatest nobleman.” (Spurgeon)

Reminds me of

James 1:17

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

A Person might ask:

What is the key to having a good marriage?

What is the key to raising children to love God?

What is the key to peace and fulfillment?

What is the key to contentment?

The key is Christ

In Christ we have every spiritual blessing.

Because of the Holy Spirit - A Person can experience Heaven before they get there...

Because of the Devil - A Person can experience Hell before they get there...

In these last days when people because of wickedness are given over to a depraved mind like the Bible says in Romans 1:28 “Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.”

These will be tormented in themselves and will a longing for peace.

Jeremiah 6:14

“They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace.”

The only way they will find peace is when they turn to God, come under the blood and are found in Christ...

- Friends the Greatest thing in this world is not riches or fame or anything else this world has to offer...
- The Greatest thing in this world is peace and right relationship with Christ...

2. In Christ - We Have Redemption

Vs. 7-9

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9** he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

In Him we have redemption and nowhere else. There is no possible redemption outside of Jesus and His redeeming **blood**.

There are spiritual stains that Dawn and Ajax can't wash way...
I love the old song that says:

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

- i. **Redemption** always implies a price being paid for the freedom that is purchased. It uses the ancient Greek word, which means, "to liberate on the receipt of a ransom." Here the price is **His blood**.

Story: I asked the Lord why did Jesus have to die on the Cross.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:22

and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Colossians 2

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,
14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the

cross. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

3. In Christ - We are Chosen and Included

Vs. 11-14

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **13** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession

It is a Wonderful thing to be Chosen...

It feels good to be Chosen...

Christ has Chosen you... He Invites you... He Wants you... And He gives you He

2 Corinthians 1

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, **22** set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Let me ask you an important Question:

Do you feel the presence of God in your life?

Cherish the presence of God in your life... It means something...

His presence in your life is His reassurance that you're His...

Don't allow anything (*Entertainment, Friends, Traditions or anything else*) **in your life that would hinder or grieve God's Presence in your life...**

His Presence is the most important thing...

The More you guard the Presence of God the more sensitive you will be to Him and His Voice...

John 15

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.