

Spiritual Blessings

Ephesians 1:3

Introduction: We are told in this verse that **every** spiritual blessing is in Christ. This means there are no spiritual blessings anywhere else (or outside of Christ). that is a serious proposition. One ought to be able to grasp the urgent need to be in Christ. I would say that a consideration of some of the blessings should also be motivation to be in Christ. Let's study these things.

I. Right Place, Right Time.

- A.** There have been times in man's history when it was necessary to be in a God-appointed place at a time God had specified.
 - 1.** In Noah's day the God-appointed place was an ark made according to God's plan (**1 Peter 3:20-21**). Note: **"...in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water."**
 - 2.** In Moses' day the God-appointed place was in a house with the blood of a lamb on the door posts and lintel (**Ex. 12:22-23**).
- B.** The God-ordained place to be today is "in Christ." (more on this later).

II. Spiritual Blessings Are A Result Of Being In Christ.

- A.** The emphasis needs to first be placed on what type of blessings these are.
 - 1.** In our ultra-materialistic society it is difficult for some to conceive of anything other than something material as a blessing.
 - 2.** These blessings are qualified as being "spiritual" in nature.
- B.** What are **some** of these spiritual blessings.
 - 1.** Redemption (**Eph. 1:7**).
 - a.** Word here was used in regard to paying a ransom for a captive.
 - b.** Sin and the devil capture us (**Jn. 8:34; 2 Tim. 2:26**).
 - c.** Jesus has gained our release **and** paid the price of redemption (**Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19**).
 - 2.** Forgiveness of sins (**Eph. 1:7**).
 - a.** Once the redemptive price has been paid, freedom is possible.
 - b.** Obtained by the blood of Christ (**Matt. 26:28**) and made available to us through baptism (**Acts 2:38**).
 - 3.** Reconciliation to God (**Eph. 2:13, 16**).
 - a.** It is sin that causes separation from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**).
 - b.** It is Jesus who brings about reconciliation of man **to** God (**2 Cor. 5:18-21**).

4. Peace with God (**Eph. 2:17**).
 - a. Peace is the result of reconciliation. The end of hostilities (**cf. James 4:4**).
 - b. Brought about through Christ (**Rom. 5:1**).

III. How To Get Into Christ.

- A. Being “in Christ” actually describes a relationship one enters as a result of obedience to the gospel.
 1. This is equivalent to the idea of fellowship.
 2. God calls us into this fellowship (**1 Cor. 1:9**).
 3. God calls us by the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:14**).
- B. This is revealed somewhat casually at the end of Romans (**Rom. 16:7, 9-10**).
- C. The Corinthians and the Ephesians were “in Christ” (**1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1**).
- D. How did they enter such a relationship? Through baptism (**Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27**).
 1. Corinthians (**Acts 18:8**).
 2. Ephesians (**Acts 19:5**).
- E. **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1).**

Conclusion: Look at these advantages of being “in Christ”—and there are even more! Why not do what is necessary now to allow yourself to be in this relationship. HBRCB.