

BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

12/4/2022 PM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: **Eph. 1:3; Eph. 2:13, 18-19.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. Paul wanted converts to be complete in Christ (**Col. 1:28**).
2. *IN CHRIST* there are immeasurable blessings. But only when we are in Christ (**2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58**).

C. First, we need to be sure that we are "in Christ" so that we can be beneficiary of these great blessings!

1. The scriptures tell us how we get into Christ.
2. We MUST PUT ON Christ. (**Gal. 3:27-28**)
 - 1) If you put on a coat, where are you in relation to that coat? You are in it!
 - 2) If you put on Christ, where are you in relation to Christ? You are in Christ!
3. **2 Cor. 5:17** - how do we become a new creature or a new person?
 - 1) By being born again, **John 3:3, 5**.
 - 2) By baptism, **Rom. 6:3-4**.
 - 3) Baptism must be preceded by repentance. (**Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-37; 2:38**)
 - 4) The changed man.
4. If you want to enjoy the blessings in Christ, you must first get into Christ and if you want to be "in Christ" you must do what the gospel of Christ says in order to put him on!

D. Now let's look at some of the blessings that are made available to those who are in Christ.

DISCUSSION: IN CHRIST, WE HAVE THE BLESSING OF . . .

I. CLEANSED OF SIN.

A. Acts 22:16 - we enter Christ cleansed from the guilt of sin.

B. There are several words which express the cleansing that we have in Christ.

1. Redemption, & Forgiveness (**Col. 1:14**).
2. Sanctification: (**Heb. 2:11**).
3. Reconciliation: (**Rom. 5:10**).
4. Justification: (**1 Cor. 6:11**).

C. NOTE, If we are not faithful, we will lose our hope. (1 John 1:7; Ps. 119:105)

1. In Christ we are called out of the world.
 - 1) The ekklesia - the called-out ones, translated "church".
 - 2) The child of God does not LOVE the world (**James 4:4; 1 John 2:15**).
2. In Christ we are set apart to do good works.
 - 1) **Gal. 6:10**.
 - 2) **James 4:17**.

D. **1 Cor. 12:13** – Baptized into the BODY OF CHRIST.

II. CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM.

A. BEING born of the "water and the spirit" we enter the kingdom (**Col. 1:13**).

1. Those in Christ are not citizens of an earthly kingdom (**John 18:36**).
2. Jesus refused to be made an earthly king.
 - 1) **John 6:15**.
 - 2) **Rom. 14:17**.

3. Citizenship in any country or kingdom involves responsibilities of the citizen and it also provides blessings.
 - 1) One of the blessings of citizenship in the kingdom of God's dear Son is to be able to commune with Christ, **Luke 22:18-19**.
 - a. To commune with the Lord is a privilege but also a command, we must partake of it in order to be pleasing unto God, **1 Cor. 11:23-26**.
 - b. We must partake in a worthy fashion, truly communing with the Lord, **1 Cor. 11:27-29**. (**Discerning** the Lord's body).
 - (a) Inward. **28** "let a man examine himself".
 - (b) Outward. **26** "ye do shew".
 - (c) Backward. **26** "the Lord's death".
 - (d) Forward. **26** "till he come".
 - 2) Another privilege of being a citizen of this great kingdom is to be a soldier of Christ.
 - a. We ought to be proud to be a soldier of Jesus Christ.
 - b. We must do our best to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) **Eph. 6:11-13**. Put on the soldier's armor.
 - (b) **2 Tim. 2:3**.
 - c. FIGHT and FINISH. (**2 Tim. 4:7**)

B. Faithfulness in the Lord's Kingdom will mean certain victory.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. QUESTION: Are you in Christ today?

1. If not, you are missing out on wonderful blessings.
2. You are missing the peace of God.
3. You miss being a citizen of the kingdom, a child of God.

B. Are you a faithful citizen in His Kingdom?