

BLESSINGS IN CHRIST.

11-24-2024 PM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: Eph. 2:18-19.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Paul wanted converts to be complete in Christ. **Col. 1:28** "...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."
2. IN CHRIST there are immeasurable blessings.
 - 1) But only when we are in Christ.
 - 2) **2 Tim. 2:10** "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."
 - 3) **1 Cor. 15:58.**

C. But 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.
 - 1) We MUST PUT ON Christ. (**Gal. 3:27-28**)
 - 2) If you put on a coat, where are you in relation to that coat? You are in it!
 - 3) If you put on Christ, where are you in relation to Christ? You are in Christ!
2. **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.
3. If you want to enjoy the blessings in Christ naturally 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. CLEANSING.

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** "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
2. Sanctification: **Heb. 2:11** "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren."
3. Reconciliation: **Rom. 5:10** "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."
4. Justification: **1 Cor. 6:11** "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

C. But 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.

- a. **James 4:4.**
 - b. **1 John 2:15.**
- 2. In Christ we are set apart to do good works.
 - 1) **Gal. 6:10** "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."
 - 2) **James 4:17** "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
- D. 1 Cor. 12:13 – Baptized into the BODY OF CHRIST.**

II. CITIZENSHIP.

- A. BEING born of the "water and the spirit" we enter the kingdom, Col. 1:13** "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."
 - 1. Those in Christ are not citizens of an earthly kingdom (**John 18:36** "My kingdom is not of this world...")
 - 2. Jesus refused to be made an earthly king.
 - 1) **John 6:15** "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone."
 - 2) **Rom. 14:17** "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
 - 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. READ.**
 - 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 soldiers armor.
 - (b) **2 Tim. 2:3** "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
 - 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 are not a citizen of the kingdom, nor a child of God.
 - 1) You are not called out of the world.
- B. Are you a faithful citizen in His Kingdom?**