

3. Spiritual Blessings In Christ, Part 1

Ephesians 1:3-8

Our Spiritual Blessing Package IN CHRIST

- Who you are in is a reference to your family relationship, origin, inheritance, nature and destiny. The moment you believed in Christ, God plucked you out of the mainstream of sinners and placed you in Christ—100%. In that place, we immediately receive a blessings package from His goodness that encompasses everything we need to live a life of faith and godliness. (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3)
- These blessings are associated with the heavenly realms—the unseen world of spiritual reality, a dimension we do not see. Anytime you ask God to heal someone, work in someone's life you are thinking about this unseen world. (John 3; 2 Kings 2:11; 6:8-17; Daniel 9:21-23; 10:12-14; Matthew 26:53)
- When Christ was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven, he was exalted over all the powers there. (Ephesians 1:20-22) We as believers, all of us (the Church), join Christ there. (Ephesians 2:6; 3:10)

Blessing: Chosen to Be Holy and Blameless (v. 4)

What can it mean?

It is very clear that God had a plan from the beginning for all believers to be in Christ (v. 3). God is Sovereign, but His sovereignty is always wise, holy, good and loving. His plan would be also. God desires all men to believe (1 Timothy 2:4) and the gospel to be preached to all men (Matthew 28:18-20). God doesn't communicate how He chooses men. But, He speaks volumes through His Word about the fact that when we believe in Christ we are from then on called chosen and elect.

What can it not mean?

- It cannot mean that God doesn't love some people. (John 3:16)
- It cannot mean that having doubts about your faith means you have not been chosen. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and trust in Him alone for salvation, you are saved and you are, therefore, chosen because your identity is in Him, not in yourself.
- It cannot mean that you can't tell someone that (1) God loves her or (2) Jesus died for her because she may or may not be "chosen."

For what are we chosen?

For God to make us holy and blameless.

Blessing: Predestined to Be adopted as Sons and Heirs (v. 5)

What can it mean?

God had a plan; He determined or decided something beforehand. Jesus' crucifixion was part of God's plan (Acts 4:28). Believers being conformed to the likeness of Jesus is part of God's plan (Romans 8:29). Here in

Ephesians 1:5, God predetermined our adoption as sons & daughters that we might receive all the privileges of the natural son (Jesus), including inheritance rights.

What can it not mean?

It cannot mean that you are a puppet with no control over your "destiny." God's rules are clear. Individuals choose to be for Him or against Him. Based upon one's choice, the result is either all spiritual blessings and heaven or nothing and hell.

Blessing: Lavished with His Grace (v. 6 & 8)

Grace is what God does to make men and women acceptable to Him. Mankind cannot earn such favor, does not deserve such favor, and will never merit such favor. It is summed up in the name, person, and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Man receives this favor or acceptance from God as a free gift through faith.

Blessing: Redemption (v. 7)

Jesus Christ has paid a full ransom price for the whole world (2 Peter 2:1) by His blood to purchase us out of slavery to sin and release us into freedom. We accept this payment of ransom by faith and are from then on a possession of God and secure in freedom from the slave master, sin, and its hold of guilt on us.

Redeemed persons respond by believing in the good news, resting in the good news, and rejoicing in the good news, while giving thanks to our Redeemer! (Hebrews 13:15)

- Present oneself to God to live for His glory (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- Willingly serve God and one another wholeheartedly.
- Spread the good news to others who are still slaves and don't yet know their ransom has already been paid.