

4. Spiritual Blessings In Christ, Part 2

Ephesians 1:3-14

God gives us every spiritual blessing **in Christ** the moment we are saved by faith. Some of the many blessings we receive as part of our “package deal” are:

- Chosen to be holy and blameless
- Predestined to be adopted as sons
- Lavished with His grace
- Redemption

Blessing: Forgiveness of Sins (v. 7)

Man is guilty before a holy God (Romans 3:10-12, 23). God's answer to guilt is forgiveness. Man's guilt has been imputed (placed) on a substitute (Jesus Christ) and taken away. The cross demonstrates God's justice (Romans 3:25-26) because sin was paid for, and His love at the same time (Romans 5:8) because He Himself provided a substitute.

The sin is taken away, not just covered temporarily like happened in those OT sacrifices. (Colossians 2:13-14; John 1:29) This is an act of God's grace lavished upon us.

Blessing: Revelation (v. 9)

Just knowing about God's grace, redemption paid, and forgiveness offered is a blessing for us. And, we also know His future plan when He will bring all things in heaven and on earth together under the headship of Christ. What God planned for in the past, enabled in the present through Christ and the cross, will be put into effect universally in the future.

Blessing: Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the Holy Spirit (v. 13-14)

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. He is a person, not a force, referred to with personal pronouns.

What is His role?

To the general population of mankind, His role is to 1) place the truth about Christ in a clear light before someone so that it must be seen and acknowledged as truth, 2) convict them of their being in a state of sin, 3) reveal that Jesus is the righteous Savior who can save them from that sin, and 4) remind them of judgment should they refuse to receive that Savior. (John 16:7-11)

His job is also to glorify Jesus Christ, especially through believers. (John 16:14)

What is His Purpose in the Believer's Life?

- To regenerate the believer—to give new spiritual life the moment someone believes in Christ, moving her from being in Adam to being in Christ.
- To baptize the believer into the Body of Christ and adopting her into the family of God.
- To indwell the believer, imparting the life of Christ. (Galatians 2:20)

- To mark the believer with the seal of God's ownership. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22)

What does Paul mean by "marked with a seal?"

It carries with it the idea of (1) ownership, (2) identification, (3) security, (4) permanence, and (5) completeness.

- God marks His people as His own through the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. His seal means we are wanted, valuable and important.
- Being sealed gives us continued assurance that we are God's children and will receive all the inheritance promised to His children—heaven, new bodies, reigning with Christ in His kingdom. There is no power greater than God who could break the seal, including yourself.
- Sealing also communicates that the contents are prepared and complete.
- Sealing takes place the moment you believe in Christ for salvation. All believers. No exception is given. It is immediate and permanent. God the Father does the sealing; the Holy Spirit is the seal. Nowhere are we exhorted to ask for it so it must be universal and immediate.

What are the results of being sealed?

- We are guaranteed all that God has promised for our future.
- God's deposit of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives is the first payment of all the treasures that will be theirs. God will keep all His promises (guaranteeing our inheritance).
- The Holy Spirit being present within us assures us that we are His, that He won't forget about us when He comes, that we go to be with Him when we die, that our sins will never again count against us, that we are new creatures, that...
- The Holy Spirit transforms the believer's life, undeniably marking God's presence and God's ownership in that life—forever.

Our Spiritual Blessing Package IN CHRIST

Your position "in Christ" is your...

- Acceptance before God
- Assurance of salvation
- Identity

Christ's presence "in you" is...

- Life
- Power for living
- The basis of a relationship

These are your spiritual blessings **in Christ** to be enjoyed now, meeting the deepest needs of humanity. These have nothing to do with your finances, your health, or your earthly family status. Praise God for them!