

"Our Spiritual Blessings"**Ephesians 1:3**

Introduction: Today is our 3rd message in the book of Ephesians and so far, we have not advanced very far in the letter. Let me just give you a quick overview as to where we have been.

We talked about the history of the church and why this letter was written. The church was started on Paul's 2nd missionary journey and then he returned to the church on his 3rd journey. He remained there for 3 years teaching them God's Word. This letter was written for the purpose of grounding the believers in Ephesus. The church was more than 90% Gentile and so Paul needed a way to get them grounded so as to give them some stability in their new life in Christ.

If he were writing to Jews, he could have taken them back to the Old Testament, but the Gentiles did not have that knowledge and they sought after wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:22

²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

So, in this letter Paul takes the Gentiles back to eternity past and he shows them the Eternal Purpose of God. He takes them back to eternity past to show them that God had a plan to establish a bride for His Son and the bride would be the church. In this letter Paul gives to them 3 chapters of Doctrine and then he gives them 3 chapters of practical application. He desires to get them thoroughly grounded in Doctrine so they will not be confused by false teachers.

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Now the past 2 weeks we have looked at Ephesians 1:1.

Notice Ephesians 1:1

Here in this verse Paul gives 3 different titles to the believers at Ephesus.

1. **They were Saints.** - This speaks of the believer's standing before God. We are justified because we have had our sins removed and God's righteousness imputed to our account.
2. **They were Faithful.** - This is a reference to their changed lives after salvation.

3. **They were IN Christ.** - This was a reference to their identity. It is where we have all been placed the moment we were saved. We were baptized into the body of Christ. Our identity is that we are Saints IN Christ. I am the Pastor of CBC but that is not my identity. That can change, but my identity in Christ will never change.

Last week we looked just a little about what it means to be IN Christ.

- a. **IN Christ we are Complete.**

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

- b. **IN Christ we are Accepted.**

Ephesians 1:6

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Today we are going to continue this thought to see what it means to be IN Christ.

- I. **IN Christ we are Blessed with ALL Spiritual Blessings**

Notice Ephesians 1:3

Paul begins this verse by praising God. Paul offers up this praise to God our Father as he considers the Truth which he reveals in this verse. Here in this verse we see that God hath blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Now when we think of blessings, we always think about that which is physical. We see money in the bank as a blessing, we see a car that works to get us from point A to point B as a blessing, we see good health as a blessing, we see a nice home as a blessing and the list goes on and on. But what if the car breaks down, what if the money runs out, what if the doctor tells me I only have 6 months to live, what if the house burns down, and what if one of my loved ones die, does that mean that God has stopped blessing me? The answer is, "NO"!!

You see our problem is that we tend to see blessings as those things which benefit us physically. Now the things I mentioned truly are blessings in our lives, but they are not the important blessings. The things which I mentioned are all temporary and they will all go away some day. What we need to realize is that real blessings are not material, but they are spiritual. Spiritual blessings are really the important blessings. You see, when everything else falls apart and if we lose all we have in this world the spiritual blessings will still be there. Let us consider a couple of points concerning these blessings:

1. The Quantity of our Spiritual Blessings.

Notice Ephesians 1:3 again.

The little word "ALL" speaks of the quantity of our spiritual blessings. God has given to us EVERY spiritual needed for our new life in Jesus Christ. Listen to this, we have checking accounts here and those accounts can be overdrawn and so we need to keep a watch on our financial funds. But when it comes to our spiritual account it is endless. You and I can never exhaust the resources that are in our spiritual account. You can make a major withdraw today and the account is not depleted even a little bit. Let me give you an example.

- ✓ Let's say that tomorrow something happened and in a moment of weakness you commit a major sin. Well part of the riches which we have in Christ is GRACE and so it is GRACE that keeps us saved when we sin. Now if that were to happen, your withdraw of GRACE does not in any way take away from the grace that we have been blessed with.
- ✓ Let's say that you are faced with a major decision in your life and you need wisdom. God then pours out to you the from your riches in Christ the wisdom you need. Your withdraw of wisdom, no matter how great the withdraw does not in any way take way from the wisdom that is available.

The quantity of our spiritual wealth is impossible to deplete. This really connects with what we looked at last week.

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

When I was saved God placed in my spiritual account every blessing that He has to offer to believers. He has held nothing back from you and I who are His children. We have everything we need right now to be content, to be successful, to be obedient, to be useful to the Kingdom and to have peace in this life.

✓ Contentment

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

✓ Successful

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The sap which runs through the Vine is what produces spiritual fruit and the sap pictures the Holy Spirit. We have an endless supply of the Spirit and so we have the means for a successful life of serving Jesus Christ.

✓ Obedience

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

⁴ *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Romans 6:12-14

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

✓ **Useful**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴ Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Ephesians 4:7

⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

✓ **Peace**

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

These are just a few of our riches IN Christ. We can sum this point up with one verse.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. The Qualifications for the Spiritual Blessings.

Notice Ephesians 1:3 again.

These blessings are only for those who are IN Christ. If you are not saved, you have no access to these blessings. They are kept stored in heaven for we are told they are in heavenly places. These are the riches of Jesus Christ and they are only for the believer.

If you are not saved all you have is the material things of this world. They can be in your possession today and they can be gone tomorrow. You will only have them for a short amount of time and then they will be passed on to someone else.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

¹⁸ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

¹⁹ And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

Let me show you a true story which Jesus told.

Luke 16:19-25

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

His wealth brought no comfort in hell. He left it all behind.

But we who are believers have an eternal inheritance that we shall never lose.

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

3. The Purpose of our Spiritual Blessings IN Christ.

Notice Ephesians 1:4

We will look at the subject of ELECTION next week but for now I want to draw your attention to the end of the verse. The word "THAT" points to the reason why God chose to have a bride for His Son and why He blessed the church with ALL spiritual blessings. That we can be holy and without blame before Him. But this is not the ultimate purpose.

Notice Ephesians 1:6

The ultimate purpose is so that God will be glorified. So, the blessings that we have IN Christ guarantee that we will one day be presented to Jesus Christ HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

⁷ *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

⁸ *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Conclusion:

So, you have before you a choice. God predetermined that from before the foundation of the world there would be a church. All who trust in Jesus Christ become members and they are given all the spiritual blessings IN Christ. They are guaranteed to be presented to Jesus Christ Holy and without blame. That invitation is still good today. But you must repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Let me show you a frightening verse.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.