

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST (Part 1)

#### **Ephesians 1:1-14**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The Apostle Paul identified himself as the writer of this letter (vv. 1:1; 3:1). He addressed this letter to the church at Ephesus and all Believers everywhere – “Saints ... and the faithful in Christ Jesus” (v. 1) – who are the holy ones set apart for God’s use.
- B. This letter is referred to as one of the four prison Epistles as it was written during Paul’s imprisonment. The other prison Epistles written by Paul are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.
- C. “**Lord Jesus Christ**” is expressed six times in this letter – (Eph 1:2, 3, 17; 5:20; 6:23, 24).
- D. According to Ephesians 1:3, Believers have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. The spiritual blessings are the key benefits of a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. The blessings of God are spiritual and heavenly, not material blessings (earthly places or earthly blessings).

**Based on the Scripture for this Bible Study, we will study four “Spiritual Blessings that God gives to the Saints” (v. 1). We will study more spiritual blessings in the coming weeks.**

#### **I. Christians are Chosen by God (v. 4a)**

- A. **God planned the means of salvation for mankind “Before the Foundation of the world”** – (Before the beginning of the world).
- B. **Jesus Christ is the One who came into the world to save sinners.**  
He purchased our salvation on the Cross when the fullness of time had come (Luke 19:10; 1 Tim 1:15).
- C. **God, the Holy Spirit, is the One who convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment.**  
He brings us to the place of faith in Christ and a saving knowledge of the Grace of God that is revealed in His Son Jesus Christ – (John 18:8-11).
- D. **All could be Saved; however, all will not be saved – Why?**  
Refusal to Believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.
  - “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).
  - “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40).

#### **II. Christians and Holy and Blameless (v. 4b)**

- A. **“Holy”** – means to be set apart and sacred to God; dedicated to the worship of God; pure in our relationship with God.
  - To be Holy and blameless is to be like the Lord and live differently from the world. Christians are to please God in our daily living.

- “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:16).
- “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph 4:24).

**B. “Blameless”** – means without blemish, above reproach, to be free from sin, dirt, and filth.

- “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor 7:1).
- “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Phil 2:15).
- “To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” (1 Thess 3:13).

**C. Christians will sin; however, they should not practice sin.**

Do not become indifferent to God’s commandments and commands – Obey the Word of God.

- “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).
- “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).

**III. Christians are “Before Him in Love”** (v. 4c)

Believers recognize the Agape Love of God

Agape Love is the unmerited, unconditional, immeasurable, incomparable, and perfect love of God for mankind.

**A. God sent Jesus to die for our sins** (John 3:16; Rom 5:8).

**B. We cannot earn God’s love or Salvation** (Eph 2:8-9).

- God’s love is a great gift for mankind. God Saves us, not because of anything we do, but because of His great love for us, He extends His Grace to the whole human race and forgives us of our sins against Him.

**C. Christians love God wholeheartedly** (Matt 22:37-38).

**D. “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you”** (John 15:16).

- **Christ made the first choice** – to love us and die for us, to offer us eternal life with Him. We make the next choice – to accept or reject Christ’s offer of Salvation. Without His choice, we would have no choice.

- **The love of God is greater far**

The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell.  
It goes beyond the highest star And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled And pardoned from his sin.

O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure— The saints' and angels' song.

- Always thank God for His love – He sent His son to be our Savior. Jesus died in our place and on our behalf. He paid our sin debt in full.

#### IV. **Christians are Adopted as Children** (v. 5)

**A. Christians are adopted into the family of God as His sons and daughters. God is our Father.**

**B. “Adoption”** – means “to place as a son (daughter).”  
The adopted Believer is permanently adopted into God’s family.

**C. The adopted Believer establishes a new relationship with God as Father.**  
The Believer has all the rights and privileges of a genuine son or daughter (Rom 8:16-17; 1 John 3:1-2).

**D. The adopted Believer is a new person** – the old life with all of its debts (sins) are cancelled and wiped out (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 3:23-27; 2 Peter 1:4).

**E. The adopted Believer will be realized in the future at the Second Coming of Christ** (1 Thess 4:13-18).

**F. The family of God includes all who have believed in Christ in the past, all who believe in the present and all who will believe in future.** We are all a family because we have the same Father (Eph 3:14-15).

- **The Family of God**

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, The Family of God.

You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here,  
It's because we're a family and these folks are so near;  
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,  
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.

- **Thank God! Praise God! – Be Joyful – For you belong in the Family of God!**

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **A. All Spiritual Blessings are in Christ.**

He procured the Spiritual Blessings for us through His finished work on the Cross at Calvary. All that God has for the Believer is in Christ. In order to receive Spiritual Blessings, a person must be united to Christ by Faith.

### **B. “The message of God’s Love is that He loves without measure” (Anonymous).**

### **C. “When we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, we begin to experience the greatest of His love” – J. DeHaan**

### **D. The ABC’s of Salvation**

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”* (Rom 10:9-10).

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph 1:3).**



From the Teaching Ministry of:  
Pastor Carl Bennett  
Corinth Christian Fellowship  
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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**