

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST (PART 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

“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).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Types of Blessings from God

1. **Physical Blessings** are earthly Blessings that God gives to all individuals – Believers and Unbelievers – such as food, drink, clothing, shelter, material and finances, wealth, His Love, protection, health, and temporal life.
 - Jesus said, God “maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt 5:45).
2. **Spiritual Blessings** are reserved for the “Saints” (v.1). They are readily accessible to everyone who is in Jesus Christ. Only those who have been **Born Again** have access to “Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places **In Christ**” (Matt 5:45).
 - “In Him” or “In Christ” is one of the key phrases in Ephesians – (1:3, 4, 10, 12; 3:6, 10, 13; 3:6).
 - Spiritual Blessings are permanent, perfect, and eternal – lasting forever.

For this Bible Study, we will study four Spiritual Blessings that God gives “To the Saints ... and to the Faithful in Christ Jesus” (v. 1).

I. **Believers Have Been Predestined** (v. 5)

Predestination means that God knows beforehand what the future holds. It is that God has marked out ahead of time or predetermined certain things that shall come to pass.

A. **Predestination is linked to God’s Omniscience** which means that He has total knowledge and knows all things ahead of time (1 John 3:20). God knows the Beginning and the Ending of all things (Isa 46:10; Rev 21:6; 22:13).

B. **Since God is all knowing at all times**, He knows who will accept or reject His Son Jesus as the Savior. Some individuals believe that God is unfair since He knows “Before the foundation of the world” (v. 4) who will be saved (Christian Believer) or lost (Unbeliever). God has never willed anyone to eternal punishment (damnation) – He desires that everyone will be saved which is why He sent His Son into the world.”

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
- “⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8).

- “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:13).
- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).
- “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

II. **Believers Have Been Made Praise-Givers** (v. 6)

Praise means to magnify, to give thanks, to glorify on account of excellent work; to sing, to tell of, to give or to confess.

A. **By Grace Believers are saved “To the praise of His Glory.”**

- Believers are to praise God by thanking Him for Salvation.

B. **The Bible Commands Believers to Praise God**

- “Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord” (Ps 150:6).

C. **Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.**

- “Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable (Ps 145:2-3).
- “For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods” (Ps 96:4).

D. **Praise God for His Presence**

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).

E. **Praise the Lord at all times.**

His praise shall always be on our lips, Glory in the Lord (Ps 34:1-4)

F. **Praise God in the morning, at noon and at night** (Ps 55:17)

- “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Ps 103:1-2).
- “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah” (Ps 68:19).
- “So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows” (Ps 61:8).
- **Praise Him Praise Him**
Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer, Sing, O earth, His wonderful, love proclaim.
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory, Strength and honour give to His holy name.
Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer, For our sins He suffered and bled and died
He, our rock, our hope of eternal salvation, Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the crucified

III. **Believers Have Been Given Acceptance** (v. 7)

Accepted means to be highly favored; to bestow grace, highly honored or greatly favored.

A. **Believers are accepted by God in His Beloved – In Christ.**

It is trusting Jesus as Savior.

B. **God accepted the Believers just as they are and made them His very own.**

God has received the Believers, dearly welcomed in love. Therefore, Believers should never ever again feel left out or rejected.

C. **God does not accept Believers based on who they are -**

Or what they do or say – or what they have or do not have

There is no human merit in being accepted by God. It is in Christ alone. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be accepted.

D. **God accepted Christ's finished work on the Cross.**

And because of that He accepts us. Believers are accepted because they are in Christ.

E. **Once accepted by God**, Believers cannot do anything to make themselves more acceptable nor can Believers be removed from acceptance in Christ.

F. **Acceptance is a free Gift of God** – It is available to all, and any, who Believe in Jesus as Savior.

○ **Just As I Am**

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me

And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve

Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

IV. **Believers Have Been Given Redemption** (v. 7)

Redemption means to buy out, to loose by a price, the price paid for freeing a captive, to release by ransom.

The Benefits of Redemption include the following:

A. **Forgiveness of Sins**

Believers have been pardoned for their sins, shortcomings, and trespasses. Our sin-debt, past, present, and future was paid in full by Christ on the Cross. In Christ, we have been forgiven and set free.

B. **Eternal Life** (Rom 5:9-10)

C. **Righteousness** (Rom 5:17)

D. **Redeemed from the Curse of the Law** (Gal 3:13)

E. **Redeemed from the Bondage of Law** (Gal 4:5) (Adoption into the Family of God)

F. **Peace with God** (Col 1:18-20)

Jesus paid the price for our release from sin and its punishment (Matt 20:28; 1 Tim 2:6). His Death was in exchange for our Life. Redemption is possible “through His Blood,” that is, by His death (Col 1:14).

- “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But** with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet 1:18-19).
- “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:” (Col 1:14).

CONCLUSION:

A. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour (Titus 3:5-6).

B. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

C. The ABC’s of Salvation

- **Admit That You Are A Sinner.** “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23)
- **Believe On Christ.** “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).
- **Confess 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:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).



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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).