CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

<u>SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST</u> (PART 5)

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)
- "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" (1 Pet 1:3).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Spiritual Blessings are the key benefits of a relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Spiritual Blessings are readily available to all who are in Christ Jesus.

B. The way to Christ Jesus is to:

- **1.** <u>Repent</u> to change one's mind that results in a change in action, a complete change of direction toward God.
 - o "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).
- **2.** Confess acknowledge and admit to God that we are sinners.
 - o "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom 10:9).
- 3. <u>Believe</u> trust that He died as a substitute in the place of and on behalf of our sins and now lives to give us New Life (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:22-24).
 - o "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor 15:3-4).

C. I Stand Amazed in the Presence

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene,

And wonder how He could love me, A sinner condemned, unclean.

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me!

For this Bible Study, we will examine three Spiritual Blessings that God Gives "To the saints and to the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph 1:1): (1) Believers Have Been Given Hope, (2) Believers Have Been Given Power, and (3) Believers Have Been Filled With Christ.

I. Believers Have Been Give Hope (Eph 1:18; 2:12-13)

- "Hope" means expectation, trust, confidence; a desire accompanied by expectation; a promise, a declaration that something will or will not be done.
- **A. Believers are Blessed with Hope.** Our belief in Christ has taken us from the condition of "No Hope" (v. 12) to Hope.
- **B.** Believers are no longer "without Christ) (v. 12)

In this world we are no longer far off - no barriers which separate us from God. But now we have been brought near by the blood of Christ (v. 12)

- C. God has given us Hope of Heaven (John 14:1-4; 2 Cor 5:1; Phil 3:20).
 - O Heaven is God's dwelling place (Ps 33:13), where Christ is right now (Acts 1:11), the eternal home of Christians (Phil 1:21-23), the Father's House (John 14:2), a city designed and built by God (Heb 11:10), a better country (Heb 11:6) and Paradise (Luke 23:43).
- **D.** God has given us Hope for the Future (Ps 39:7; Jer 29:11; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Titus 2:13)

E. God has given us the assurance of Eternal Life.

- o "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).
- o "18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (Heb 6:18-19).
- o "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).
- Or. Ray Pritchard stated, "I am sure of this one truth. No one will go to Heaven except by the Grace of God and through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ. If a man says "NO" to Jesus, he has no hope of Heaven."
- o Billy Graham stated, "My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world."

II. Believers Have Been Given Power (Eph 1:19-20; 3:20)

- o "Power" means strength, might, mighty, ability, wonderful work.
- o "Great" means strong or great, to excel or surpass.
- **A.** The Power of God is "exceeding" (v. 19) which means it is surpassing, unlimited, immeasurable, incomparable and beyond our imagination.

B. The Power of God is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

(Acts 2:23-24; 3:14-15; 10:39-41)

- The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates the great power of God and is the great hope of all Believers. Because Jesus lives, all Believers will live also.
- o "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

C. The Power to raise Jesus demonstrates the great Power of God to overcome or defeat all the trials and temptations of our lives.

- o "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor 10:13).
- o "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Cor 12:9).
- The Power of God gives Believer's victory over the world, ourselves, and Satan (Rom 5:17).

D. The Resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that God has the Power to give a person a new life and the Power to live a new life before Him.

- o "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4).
- o "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph 4:24).
- "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6).
- The Power of God enables Believers to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we might ask or think to do.
- o The Power of God is available to all Believers (Acts 2:1-4). He still rests on us today.

o The Need for God's Power

"Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without the wind, branches without sap, and like coals without fire, we are useless."—Charles Spurgeon

III. Believers Have Been Filled With Christ (Eph 1:22-23; 3:19)

o **Filled** – means to make full, to complete.

A. The Church is a Body of which Christ is the Head.

- 1. The Church is joined to Christ.
- **2.** Christ presides over the church. He is the Head of the Body. The church is a Kingdom and Christ is its King. As Believers, we follow Christ as the Head.
- 3. The church is one in Christ. The Head has only one Body.
- **4.** Christ purchased the church "with His own Blood."
 - o "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).
- **5.** Christ "loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (Eph 5:25)
 - o "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).
 - o "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Pet 3:18).

B. As Believers, we are at Full Capacity (Complete) with Christ.

The fullness of Christ is in the Believer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Col 2:9-10). We are complete in Christ the moment we believed and accepted Christ as the Savior.

C. The Church is the Fullness of God in this World.

The church holds the power to change the world, and through Christ the church can show the world true Christian love. The church is the physical representation of Christ in this world.

- o "¹² Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. ¹³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it (John 14:12-14).
- o "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph 4:12).

CONCLUSION:

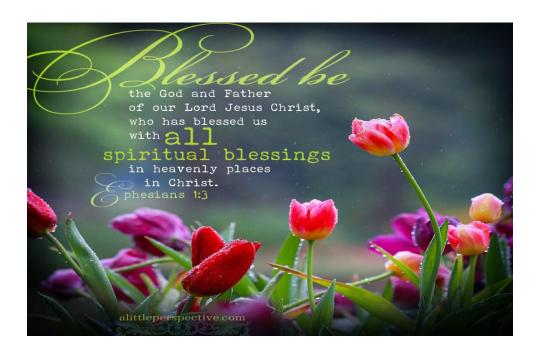
A. My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' name, On Christ the solid rock I stand All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

- 1. If you want to go to Heaven, you must base your hope on the Solid Rock of Jesus' blood and righteousness. Are you standing on the Rock? Are you wholly leaning of Jesus' name?
- **2.** No one goes to Heaven by accident. Heaven is God's prepared place for prepared people.
- B. Romans Road to Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

MEMORY VERSE:

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11)



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