

THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

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TYPE OF SERMON: Expository

TEXT: Ephesians 1:1-14

SUBJECT: Spiritual Blessings

COMPLEMENT: The spiritual blessings the church enjoys in Jesus Christ.

PROPOSITION: The church of Christ enjoys many great blessings given by God, the Father.

OBJECTIVE: To encourage my spiritual family to remember the spiritual blessings we have in Christ and to allow such blessings to encourage us to work diligently in God's Kingdom.

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is no other book in the New Testament that emphasizes the glorious Church of Christ and her blessings than the Book of Ephesians.
 - a. Ephesians speaks about the Church of Christ
 - b. Colossians speaks about the Christ of the Church
2. *The Book of Ephesians:*
 - a. Penned by Paul while in prison at Rome (62 AD).
 - b. 6 chapters, 155 verses
 - c. Central theme: The eternal purpose of God in Christ's church.
3. We are indeed a truly blessed church in Christ!
4. *The church of Christ we are talking about is...*
 - a. The Body of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 16:18).
 - b. The Body of those who have been made alive (Eph. 2:1-4).
 - c. The Body of the reconciled (Eph. 2:13-16).
 - d. The Eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10).
 - e. The Body of the united in Christ (Eph. 4:1-6).
 - f. The Bride of Christ (Eph. 5).
 - g. The Army of God (Eph. 6).
5. *In this lesson we will mainly examine the parts of Ephesians 1:3:*
 - a. The origin and source of our spiritual blessings.
 - b. The quantity of our spiritual blessings.
 - c. The nature of our spiritual blessings.
 - d. The location of our spiritual blessings.
6. As we study together, let us truly appreciate the beautiful blessings we enjoy in Christ.

First, let us examine...

I. THE ORIGIN AND SOURCE OF OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

1. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us" (Eph. 1:3).*
 - a. Here we see God as the origin and source of our spiritual blessings.

- b. Paul makes it clear that it is God who has blessed us!
- 2. *The Bible makes it clear that God is the one who blesses His people:*
 - a. Genesis 12:1-2 – God blessed Abraham!
 - b. James 1:17 – Every good and perfect gift comes from God the Father.
 - c. Ephesians 2:4; Romans 5:8 – God's love makes it possible for us to enjoy great blessings!
- 3. Therefore, we must always acknowledge the fact that all spiritual blessings come from God and no one else!

Second, let us consider...

II. THE QUANTITY OF OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- 1. *"Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing" (v. 3)*
- 2. The adjective **"every"** comes from the Greek word πάσης "páse":
 - a. The totality of any object or mass.
 - b. All
 - c. Whole
 - d. Complete
 - e. The Geneva Bible (1560) uses the adjective "All."
- 3. The noun **"blessing"** is in the singular, not plural; nevertheless...
 - a. **"Blessing"** stands as a unit; as a whole, and not just one blessing.
 - b. John 1:29, "The Lamb of God who takes away the SIN of the world." Sin here is used as a unit representing all the sins of the world (1 John 2:2).
- 4. The church of Christ has been blessed with **ALL** spiritual blessings in Christ, and not just some.
- 5. *When God blesses, He always gives all and the best!*
 - a. John 10:10, "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it **more abundantly.**"
 - b. James 1:17 – God gives **ALL** good and perfect gifts!
 - c. He gave His only Son to die for us (John 3:16).
- 6. Thank God for blessings us with all spiritual blessings!

Third, let us ponder upon...

III. THE NATURE OF OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- 1. *"Every spiritual blessing" (v. 3).*
- 2. The adjective **"Spiritual"** helps us to understand the nature of these great blessings.
- 3. Even though God also blesses us with material blessings such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation, rain, sun, etc.; nevertheless, Paul has in mind spiritual blessings in this context.
- 4. *"In the heavenly places" (v. 3).*
 - a. This phrase appears 5 times in the Book of Ephesians (1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12).

- b. Its basic meaning is that which pertains to spiritual or celestial state. Context will determine its meaning; especially considering Eph. 6:12).
- c. The CEV (Contemporary English Version), "Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!" (Eph. 1:3).

5. *Let us briefly consider some of these blessings we enjoy by being members of the Body of Christ, His Church:*

- a. **Grace and peace (1:2)** – Even though Paul used these nouns as a greeting to the Ephesians; Nevertheless, these can also be considered blessings we enjoy in Christ (cf. Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:27).
- b. **God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (v. 4).** This divine action is not according to the teachings of John Calvin, where some have been chosen or elected for salvation and others for condemnation, that is, against their free will. Such false doctrine is not taught in the pages of God's inspired Word. The church was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world. All those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ and have been baptized into Christ, have become, and enjoy the privilege of being part of those who were chosen before the foundation of the world. Notice the text says, "In Christ." Therefore, those who are in Christ become part of the chosen ones.
- c. **The blessing of adoption into the family of God (Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13; Eph. 2:19).** We now enjoy the blessing of being accepted in Christ (Eph. 1:6).
- d. **The blessing of the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Acts 2:38; 22:16).**
- e. **Knowledge of the mystery of His will (Eph. 1:9).** We now know that God's mystery has to do with the plan of salvation to all mankind (Eph. 3:4-7).
- f. **The seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14).**
- g. **The blessing of our spiritual new life in Christ (Eph. 2:1-4).**
- h. **The blessing of our reconciliation in Christ (Eph. 2:13-16).**

6. As we can see, we are truly a blessed church in Christ! God be glorified for His wonderful blessings bestowed upon us!

Fourth, let us meditate upon...

IV. THE LOCATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

1. *"In Christ" (Eph. 1:3).*
 - a. This is the exact location where all spiritual blessings are found.
 - b. God chose Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world to be the location where all spiritual blessings would be.
 - c. The phrase "in Christ" appears approximately 13 times in Ephesians.
 - d. The noun "Christ" appears 38 times in Ephesians.
2. *How do you get into Christ?*
 - a. Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Through baptism).

3. Only those in Christ can enjoy the blessings with which God has blessed His Church!

CONCLUSION:

1. We are truly a blessed church!
2. In this lesson we have briefly examined the origin, quantity, nature, and location of all spiritual blessings!
3. May God help us to always appreciate how great He has blessed us!
4. If you are not part of Christ's church, then we encourage you to obey the gospel.

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