

Ephesians

Ephesians 1:1-14

The most important thing about you is what you think about God. –

A.W. Tozer

- That voice you listen to that determines your thoughts or actions is, at that moment, your god.
- What you think about God impacts what you think about you.

What is “in Christ”?

Saints are those who are faithful in Christ Jesus.

- Ephesians 1:1
- Who we are in Christ is our true identity.
- Believing in Jesus or trying to live like Jesus is not the same as being in Christ Jesus.
- To be in Christ, you must put your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- To be “in Christ” means that:
 - I identify with Jesus
 - I am unified with Jesus
 - Romans 6:3-5, 8, 11-12

What are the blessings of being “in Christ”?

- Every spiritual blessing – Ephesians 1:3
- God’s blessings are for those who are in Christ.
- There are two realities – physical and spiritual.
- Those who are in Christ are:
 - chosen – Ephesians 1:4
 - Isaiah 55:9
 - holy and blameless in God’s sight – Ephesians 1:4
 - adopted into God’s family – Ephesians 1:5
 - redeemed and forgiven – Ephesians 1:7
 - Romans 6:6
 - receivers of God’s revelation – Ephesians 1:9
 - Matthew 28:18

How do we become “in Christ”?

- Hearing and believing the gospel
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - Romans 10:17

The Holy Spirit is the Seal and Deposit and Guarantee promising that what we experience now is only a taste of what’s guaranteed with God in the future.

- Romans 8:15-16
- Ephesians 1:14

Summary

This passage tells you that God:

- loves you
- wants to be known by you
- pursues you
- will sacrifice for you
- lavishes his grace on you
- wants to be with you

This passage tells you that you are:

- loved and valued by God
- important to God
- seen as holy and blameless by God
- chosen by God
- Let in on His plan (Mystery>>> inheritance) AMPC 8-11
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit 12-14

What’s the response of those who are in Christ? Praise Him!

Action Steps\ Devotional

1-How does 1-14 change your perspective of how you think about God\ Jesus?

2- How does 1-14 change your perspective of how God feels about you?

3- What are the negative voices you are hearing about yourself and your family in society\ culture?

4- How are these messages different and how you going to let God reprogram your mind? Action steps: Write out and pray this passage. Make cards with fav. Verses in key places etc. Share it with some else. Praise to praise music.

:Eph 1:² May grace (God's unmerited favor) and spiritual peace [which means peace with God and harmony, unity, and undisturbedness] be yours from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us *in Christ* with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm!

⁴ Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, *even* above reproach, before Him in love.

⁵ For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]—

⁶ [So that we might be] to the praise *and* the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches *and* the generosity of His gracious favor,

⁸ Which He lavished upon us in every kind of wisdom and understanding (practical insight and prudence),

⁹ Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed *and* set forth in Him,

¹⁰ [He planned] for the maturity of the times *and* the climax of the ages to unify all things *and* head them up *and* consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth.

¹¹ In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) *and* we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel *and* design of His [own] will,

¹² So that we who first hoped in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him have been destined and appointed to] live for the praise of His glory!

¹³ In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed *in and* adhered to *and* relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.¹⁴ That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption *and* our acquiring [complete] possession of it—to the praise of His glory.

