The Blessings of Being in Christ

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

1. The apostle Paul said these words in the first letter to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

A. No doubt he knew where his salvation came from and he wanted nothing more than to be able to let all of his audience know about his Lord and Savior!

2. To Timothy, Paul wanted to make sure he knew first and foremost that his salvation came through Jesus Christ.
2 Timothy 2:7-13

3. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). However, before we can enjoy these spiritual blessings and the salvation that is only in Christ, there are some things that we must do.

A. Being in Christ is not always easy -- it is an ongoing process.

B. But we can enjoy His blessings IF:

We Are Dead to Sin

1. **Jesus Christ was raised from the dead according to the gospel (2 Timothy 2:8) and we too are to be alive in Christ and no longer dead!**
   1 Corinthians 15:1-4

2. **We die to sin by being baptized into Christ's death and then living a new life in Him.**
   Romans 6:2-8

We can enjoy spiritual blessings if:

We Suffer for Him

1. **It will not be easy - we must be prepared to suffer for the cause of Christ (2 Timothy 2:9-12).**

   A. **We will not be alone, all will suffer.**

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2. **Through suffering we will receive our reward**

Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

We can further enjoy His blessings if:

We Confess Him

1. We cannot be ashamed our Lord (2 Timothy 2:12).

Mark 8:38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

A. We should learn a valuable lesson from the apostle Paul. He was not ashamed of Jesus!

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

1) And therefore, neither should we. We study so that we will not need to be ashamed.
2 Timothy 2:15

2. We should be determined to confess Jesus each and every day of our life!
Matthew 10:32

A. Living for Christ is like "show and tell" was in our school days.

1) We cannot tell (confess) what we do not know (come to learn).

We enjoy His blessings:

If We Believe Completely in Him

1. We must be determined to believe completely in our Lord (V13).

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

A. We must be ready to repent as often as needed, realizing our need to change.

(To Simon the Sorcerer)
Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

B. However, whether we change or not, God does not change.

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Revelation 1:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,"

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Conclusion

1. We put on Christ (get in Christ) when we are baptized into Christ

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

2. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into the body, the church

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body....

Colossians 1:24 ....for the sake of His body, which is the church

Ephesians 1:22-23 ....and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body...

3. Salvation is only in Christ - Paul wrote:

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 ...."In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Invitation

Place **Date**

Blessings of Being in Christ.wpd
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