



Ephesians 1:3-14

OUR BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

Union with Christ is really the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation not only in its application but also in its once-for-all accomplishment in the finished work of Christ. This can be readily seen if we remember that brief expression which is so common in the New Testament, namely, "in Christ." It is that which is meant by "in Christ" that we have in mind when we speak of "union with Christ." ...What is it that binds past and present and future together in the life of faith and in the hope of glory? Why does the believer entertain the thought of God's determinate counsel with such joy? Why can he have patience in the perplexities and adversities of the present? Why can he have confident assurance with reference to the future and rejoice in hope of the glory of God? It is because he cannot think of past, present, or future apart from union with Christ.

—John Murray (1898-1975)

WHO AM I?

Could it be that at the heart of our longings, motivations, and actions is a desperate search to find out who we are... to know if we are unique, loved, significant, and secure?

If so, then the next question is, "What am I looking to for a sense of identity, belonging, significance, and security?"

ALL THAT WE DESIRE IS FOUND IN CHRIST!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ! (1:3)

God is the _____ of all blessings.

Christ is the _____ of all blessings.

The Spirit is the _____ of all blessings.

We possess all these blessings _____ in the heavenlies.

1. GOD THE FATHER HAS _____ US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (1:4-6).

God is the all-powerful, eternal Creator of the universe and the sovereign Author of all that transpires in time (cf. Psalm 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Rom. 9:14-24).

The whole Christian life depends on the clear consciousness of our position in Christ.

—Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

Our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus.

—Timothy Keller

When you were born again into God's family, you were born rich.

—Warren Wiersbe

Heaven is brought near to man through Christ Jesus. Those spiritual blessings conferred on us create heaven within us.

—John Eadie

Human curiosity renders the discussion of predestination, already somewhat difficult of itself, very confusing and even dangerous. No restraints can hold it back from wandering in forbidden bypaths. If allowed it will leave no secret to God that it will not search out and unravel. ...Let us not be ashamed to be ignorant of something in this matter, wherein there is a certain learned ignorance.

—John Calvin

God knew us, loved us, and chose us before the creation of the world...long before we were ever born (cf. Psalm 139).

God designed us and chose us to be holy and blameless in a loving relationship with Him (cf. Rom. 8:28-30).

God predestined us to be adopted as heirs into His family.

Our response: _____

**2. GOD THE SON HAS _____ US
BY HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS (1:7-12).**

In Christ, we have been delivered from the bondage of sin.

In Christ, we have been forgiven from all our trespasses.

In Christ, we have been lavished with grace.

In Christ, we have been shown the purpose of all history—the bringing together of all things under Jesus Christ.

In Christ, we have been marked out before time as God's heirs, His special possession (cf. Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Our response: _____

**3. GOD THE SPIRIT HAS _____ US
WITH THE GUARANTEE OF ETERNAL LIFE (1:13-14).**

At the moment we believed in Christ, we were indwelt by the Holy Spirit as a down payment of eternal life.

At the moment Jesus Christ returns, our redemption will be complete and we will reign with Christ in His kingdom.

Our response: _____

Who am I?

In Christ, I am adopted, blessed, chosen, delivered, enlightened, forgiven, and guaranteed eternal life as an heir in God's family!

When a Roman adoption was complete it was complete indeed. The person who had been adopted had all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family and completely lost all rights in his old family. In the eyes of the law he was a new person. So new was he that even all debts and obligations connected with his previous family were abolished as if they never existed. —William Barclay

Religion says: "My identity is built on being a good person." The Gospel says: "My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on Christ's." —Timothy Keller

Christ is the one in whom God chooses to sum up the cosmos, the one in whom he restores harmony to the universe. He is the focal point. ...The emphasis now is on a universe that is centered and reunited in Christ. —Peter T. O'Brien

The believers' reception of the Spirit is the sign that they belong to God in a special sense and have been stamped with the character of their owner. —Andrew T. Lincoln

In essence, the "deposit" of the Holy Spirit is a little bit of heaven in believers' lives with a guarantee of much more yet to come. —Harold Hoehner

There is no more true test of our Christian profession than to discover how prominent the note of praise and thanksgiving is in our life. —Martin Lloyd-Jones

God is good and I am always loved. —Ann Voskamp