

Being IN Christ

(Ephesians 4:1-13)

Intro: Paul tells Christians of five things we have, as Christians, being in Christ. In verse 3, Paul says "...who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Here are some of those blessings...

I: Verses 1-4. We are chosen in Christ.

A: Can not talk about "being chosen" with out discussing PREDESTINATED as stated in verse, 5 and 11.

- 1: Calvinists believe that God choose's those who will be saved and those who will not before the world was made (verse 4).
- 2: These terms used here by Paul, however, do not apply to individuals.
- 3: Verse 4 clearly states that those who are PREDESTINATED are predestined to be HOLY and BLAMELESS. It does not say PREDESTINATED to be SAVED as Calvinists claim.
- 4: Verse 5 and 11 both refer to either having an INHERITANCE in or being ADOPTED into Christ.
- 5: The truth is that the CHRISTIAN is PREDESTINED to be HOLY, BLAMELESS, ADOPTED, and able to receive an INHERITANCE in CHRIST. However, an individual is not predestined to be a CHRISTIAN.

B: So what is the "chosen us" in verse 4 in this context?

- 1: I Cor. 1:18-28, Paul says that as the world believes that preaching the Cross is foolishness, we see in verses 26-28 that God has CHOSEN the foolish, weak, and base things to confound the wise and the mighty.
- 2: Verse 26 tells us that Man is the "foolish, weak, and base" thing CHOSEN. Because the world believes that those who preach the cross, and believe in a God, are not wise, mighty, and noble.
- 3: James 2:5. James says God has CHOSEN the poor rich of this world rich in Christ, and heirs of the kingdom. But he also says in the same verse "which he has promised to those that love him. Those that LOVE God OBEY him.

II: Verse 7. In whom (Christ) we have REDEMPTION.

A: Rom. 3:21-24. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

- 1: But by God's righteousness we are "FREELY"...justified through the redemption that IS IN CHRIST JESUS".

B: Gal. 3:13. Christ has redeemed us from a curse by becoming a curse.

C: Col 1:14. We have redemption through Christ's blood.

III: Verse. 10. "...gather together in one all things in Christ..."

A: Gal 3:28. "...all are one in Christ Jesus."

- 1: Eph 4:11-13, Rom 12:1-5.

IV: Verses 12-13a. "In whom ys also trusted..."

A: I Tim 4:8-11. "...For this (promise of the life to come - verse 8) we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God..."

- 1: I Tim 1:12, Proverbs 29:25
- 2: "Seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing" (Heb 11:24-27).

V: Verse 13b (latter part) "In whom (Christ) also AFTER you have believed, ye are SEALED with the Holy Spirit of promise."

A: II Cor. 1:20-22. "Now he which stablisheth us with you IN CHRIST....hath SEALED us and have given us the earnest of the Spirit...".

1: Rev. 7:1-3, Rev. 9:1-6.

B: Rev. 14:2-4. "...and they sang as it were a new song before the throne....and no man could learn that song but the 144,000 (or, those) which were redeemed from the earth".

a: This is another place where some will say that God has predestinated only 144,000 people to be saved, but this number is not to be taken literally.

1: This not to say that the Christians who are "SEALED" can not be unsealed, Gal. 5:4.

Conclusion: Having been CHOSEN, REDEEMED, BECOME ONE, VALIDATED TRUST, and SEALED, the CHRISTIAN certainly has been blessed IN CHRIST with all spiritual blessings, "UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION, UNTO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY" (verse 14).