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10/28/2018

7 BENEFITS OF BEING "IN CHRIST"

(Ephesians 1:1 - 14)

INTRODUCTION

(v1) The "saints" and the "faithful" are the same group of people, Christians, in the church at Ephesus and are also described as being "in Christ."

(Acts 19:1-5) tells their story of how they arrived "in Christ."

1. (v3) "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."

God does bless a world of people whether "in" or "out" of Christ.

(Matthew 5:45) ... sun to rise on the evil and the good ... just and unjust"

(1 Chronicles 29:11-13 and Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

However, "every spiritual blessing" is located only "in Christ."

2. (v4) "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ... "

When we are "in Christ," we are "chosen" by God to receive "every spiritual blessing."

(1 John 3:1) "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God"

(v5) "adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself"

3. (v6) "to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved"

"His grace" - is described in (Ephesians 2:8 - 10)

"Made us accepted" - to agree to receive; chosen; to take, have, and hold.

4. (v7) "in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins ... "

5. (v11) "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance ... "

(1 Peter 1:3-5) "... an inheritance ... reserved in heaven for you ... "

To be eligible, you must be in God's family, a child, a Christian, "in Christ."

6. (v13) "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation ... "

7. (v13 - 14) "... in whom also having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession ... "

"Sealed" - shows ownership. Note (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

"Guarantee" - earnest, deposit, pledge, that God will complete the promise.

CLOSE: Remember, these "spiritual blessings" are received only by being "in Christ."