



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
CHRIST THE LORD PARISH
LAGOS PROVINCE 20
LEKKI PHASE 1

DATE: TUESDAY AUGUST 01, 2023

THEME: LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

TOPIC: STUDY 1: SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

INTRODUCTION

We begin a new series today and for the next couple of weeks, we will be studying Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Apostle Paul spent 3 years in Ephesus (Acts 19; Acts 20:17-38), and he established a church there. Ten years later, from his prison in Rome, he wrote this Epistle and sent it to the Christians there through Tychicus. The Book of Ephesians tells us how we can become Christians and how God wants us to live the Christian life. Chapters 1 – 3 tell us of our *Wealth in Christ*; and chapters 4 – 6 tell us of our *Walk in Christ*. What are these blessings which are ours in Christ and which we need to appropriate and enjoy? Verses 4 -14 mention seven and these will be the focus of our very first study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

STUDY 1: SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

1. CHOSEN in Christ before the Foundation of the World (verse 4).

This is the great truth and mystery of Election. How wonderful that God should select us to be His very own! Jn. 15:16. This is grace at work. Our salvation was no after-thought in the mind of God; the whole plan was conceived in eternity past.

2. PREDESTINED unto the Adoption of Children (verses 4 and 5).

The word "predestine" means "to mark out beforehand". In eternity God not only chose us but He planned what He would do with us. Election looks backward and tells us we were chosen (verse 4); predestination looks forward and tells us why we were chosen (verse 5). God's purpose in choosing us is that we should be brought into His family and given the full status and privileges of sonship. So that we who were lost and were enemies of God have been chosen to be sons and members of the Royal Family of Heaven!

3. ACCEPTED in the Beloved (verse 6).

This means that whereas God could never accept us in our sinful, unregenerate condition, yet once we trust Christ as our Saviour He does accept us in Him. This banishes all our doubts. For when we look at our sinful selves, we have doubts, but when we fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:2), in whom we have been accepted, our doubts vanish, because God has accepted the perfect life and the finished work of His Son, and it is in Him that we find acceptance.

4. REDEEMED and all our sins have been forgiven (verse 7).

To redeem is to buy back, to release by ransom. 1Pet. 1:18-19. We were "sold as a slave to sin" (Rom. 7:14), and we have been "bought at a price" (1 Cor. 6:20); and not only this, we have been

forgiven. Is. 44:22; Ps. 103:12; Lk. 7:47. God has not only made us His own, but He has made us fit to live with Him for ever. How has He done this? – “by His blood”; that is, by the sacrifice and atoning work of the Lord Jesus. Mt. 20:28; 2Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:12; 1Pet. 1:18.

5. INITIATED into the Divine Mystery (verses 8 to 10).

This word “mystery” refers to truth which was once undisclosed but which God has now revealed, that everything is moving towards the glorious consummation of all things, “That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ...” (Phil. 2:10-11). God made known unto us the mystery of His will (verse 9) in His Word (2Pet. 1:19). Here we have God’s glorious plan for the future where the saved will be with Him for all eternity.

6. Obtained an INHERITANCE (verse 11).

In Christ we have everything we need for time and for eternity (verse 11). 1Pet. 1:4; Rom. 8:17,32; 1Cor. 3:21-23; 2Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:10. Inheritance speaks of riches, wealth, possessions – and how rich we are in Him! Verse 14 tells us that we already have the guarantee of our inheritance. The Holy Spirit within us is the pledge that one day we shall enter into all that which already belongs to us in Christ. Eph. 4:30; Jn. 14:16-17.

7. SEALED with the Holy Spirit of Promise (verses 13 and 14).

This divine sealing denotes ownership and security; we belong to Him and we shall always belong to Him! – we have been sealed “unto the journey’s end” (Eph. 4:30).

These spiritual blessings belong to every Christian. They are only ours if we are “in Christ” (verse 3); if, having heard the gospel (verse 13), we have believed (verse 13).

CONCLUSION

God has made over to the believer His whole estate of spiritual wealth through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Without Christ, and apart from Him, we have nothing, we are nothing and we can do nothing (Jn. 15:5); but, as believers, God says to us: “...Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine” (Lk. 15: 31). How rich we are – yet how few of us realise our true wealth and “possess our inheritance” (Oba. 17)! God has made His Son the source of all spiritual blessing, and the moment we receive Him as Lord and Saviour, all the blessings which are in Him become ours.