

5.19.19 ~ Ephesians 1:3, Spiritual Blessings

Read Ephesians 1:1-3... In verses 3-14, Paul leaves his initial greeting in verses 1-2, and begins teaching some of the truths that expand and explain the Grace and Peace every true Christian has received through God's Son.

Today we are going to unpack **verse 3**, concerning the spiritual blessings we have received in Christ.

From your experience, does God bless all His children with good looks, intelligence, physical health, wealth, or long life, here on earth? Look around you...

Not to say that Christians may receive some or all of those blessings, but "spiritual blessings" refer to the sole work of God and His provisions for His children.

God does provide each of us with everything we need to know Him, trust Him and serve Him, while enjoying life on this earth; and we can have full confidence that we will spend eternity in heaven with God, along with all those who belong to Him. Why can we have such confidence? Because Jesus rose from the grave to demonstrate eternal life.

We may not experience great wealth, health, prestige, or influence while we live on this earth; but we can trust God for all we need to be able to enjoy this life, while also bringing praise and honor to God, as we walk humbly and boldly in this world.

Notice, we are blessed in the "heavenly places," the place where God's will is completely expressed. But we live on the earth, and the present world system seems to be under the control of the Devil not God.

I believe this is one of the reasons the Lord's prayer (**Matthew 6:10**), directs us to pray [God's] "kingdom come, [God's] will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

God's people should desire for God's Will to be done on earth, in and through their individual lives, just as God's will is already being done in heaven.

Clearly, God's sovereignty in heaven is not presently being exhibited on earth, i.e., men sin, men die, and men go to hell; but it is not God's desire for men to sin, to die, or to go to hell. and so, as believers, we must pray for God's will to be done on earth.

What is God's will, i.e., what does God want for everyone who has been, or will be, born?

God wants every person to repent, to believe in Him, and to be saved (**1Timothy 2:3-4**), "God our Savior, ...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth," (see **2Peter 3:9; Hebrews 11:6**).

All true believers of Christ should want to please God (see **Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17, 23-24**).

God is allowing sin to run its course, Satan seems to be in control over most of those on earth, at the present time; but ultimately Satan will be defeated and sin and death will be destroyed, and believers will live eternally with Christ, when a new earth and new heavens are created, just as God has determined (see **1Corinthians 15:54-58; 2Peter 3:3-7, 10-13; Revelation 21:1-5**).

If you are a Christian, you belong to God forever; but you have a temporary duty assignment here; although, your true citizenship is in Kingdom of God's kingdom.

The Book of Revelation uses the phrase, "those who dwell the earth," 11 times in 9 passages (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8, 14; 17:2, 8); this phrase speaks of those who are inhabitants of the earth, not citizens of God's kingdom, but those whose final destiny is hell, not heaven, as it says in **Revelation 17:8**, those "whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world."

It would appear today that these inhabitants of the earth have more wealth, influence, and power than the people of God do; but God has so blessed His people, that we might testify about Him, even in the midst of this corrupt world and godless generation, for we have been given all we need to serve and to honor the Lord (see **2Peter 1:2-4; Philippians 4:12-13, 19**).

God didn't choose the wise, strong, rich, handsome, or influential of the world to be His children, He chose regular people like you and me, people who have been forever changed through Christ, that we might know God's blessings as we serve Him (see **1Corinthians 1:18-21, 25-29; 2Corinthians 5:17-18, 20**).

God says we are His ambassadors and we are to be testifying, to those in the world, how the holy and mighty God of Creation is reconciling sinful men, women and children of age, to Himself.

God doesn't necessarily grant physical strength, super intelligence, abundant wealth or renowned influence to His children, but He does provide all we need, now and forever, through Christ (see **1John 4:4-6; 5:5-13**).

If you are a Christian you have everything you need to serve God victoriously, you have every spiritual blessing to help you know His Word and to grow in an intimate and eternal relationship with God, through Christ.

If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and save your soul, why haven't you? What are you waiting for (see **Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9-10, 13**)?

Only a genuine believer and follower of Jesus Christ can experience what Paul says in **Ephesians 1:3**, i.e., that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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