

CROSS REFERENCES AND INTERPRETATION

Look up 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, 15:50, Galatians 5:21 and Ephesians 5:5. What is it that the unrighteous and “flesh and blood” will not inherit that the saints will?

Do you think that “every spiritual blessing in Christ” (v.3) could refer to the Kingdom of God? If not, why not? If so, how do the verses from 3 to 10 inform our understanding of what it means to be in the kingdom?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

How should being chosen to be in God’s kingdom “before the foundation of the world” (v.4) impact our daily Christian walk?

How should being forgiven (v.7) impact our daily Christian walk?

All these great things are ours because we are “in Christ,” that is, we are united to him by faith. We did not earn these things, but God purposed in himself, before all time, to give them to us - a very good reason indeed for us to “praise his glorious grace.”



A Short Study of EPHESIANS 1:3-14

In this study of the opening verses of Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians we learn of the wonderful blessings that are enjoyed by those who are united with Jesus Christ by faith.

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EPHESIANS 1:3-14

- 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*
- 4 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love*
- 5 *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*
- 6 *to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*
- 7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*
- 8 *which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*
- 9 *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ*
- 10 *as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*
- 11 *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*
- 12 *so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*
- 13 *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*
- 14 *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

OBSERVATION

Mark every occurrence of the word 'blessed.'

- With what have we been blessed?
- In whom have we been blessed?

Mark every occurrence of the phrases "in Christ," "through Jesus Christ," "in the Beloved," and "in him" referring to Jesus.

- Apart from the blessings, what else do we have because we are "in him"?

Mark the words 'chose' and 'predestined.'

- What are we chosen/predestined for?

Mark the words "according to."

- What motivates God to do these things for his people?

Mark the word 'praise.'

- What is the outcome of God's actions?

Mark the word 'inheritance.'

- Who has obtained an inheritance?
- How is that inheritance guaranteed?
- When was that inheritance guaranteed?