

You In Him

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Topical Message)



Who Are You?

I'll give you a moment to think about it!

How would you answer that question?

The Apostle Paul helps to answer that question I ask all Christians listening to this message: The question of “Who Are You?” from Ephesians 1:3-14. Paul packs these verses with many truths of who a Christian is in his letter to the Ephesian Church. This week we will look at how Paul uses 2 simple words “In Him” in his letter to describe you and me as a Christian.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NASB)

³ 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, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on 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 on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Spiritually Blessed

³ 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,

So right off the bat, Paul says that the Christian is blessed with every spiritual blessing. He goes on to describe the those many blessings with the 2 words “In Him” in verses 4-14.

So, the descriptions in verses 4-14 of being “In Him”, a Christian already possess. One doesn't need to work, keep the Law, or do something to get more of being ‘In Him” to be blessed. You already have these blessings.

So much of the Christian life is the revelation of discovering the blessings you already possess, now that you are “In Him” (Saved).

In Him – Chosen

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

So, you are chosen. Wow, what does that mean? It means you believed the Gospel message and became spiritually alive.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Ephesians 2:5 (AMP)

⁵ Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us *alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ*; [*He gave us the very life of Christ Himself*, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

In Him – Holy & Blameless

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him

Brothers & Sisters – You are Holy & Blameless. You might say, I don't feel Holy? I sin every day, I lose my temper every day, I get angry every day. I sin every day. How does one's behavior become Holy – Its by belief in who you are, and in God's promises to you. All sin is unbelief.

Romans 14:23b (NASB)

²³ whatever is not from faith is sin.

We don't have to strive to be holy, we already are, but we need to believe to express holiness in our behavior. Whatever is not of faith is sin: Amen!

In Him – Adopted

⁵ He predestined us to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Brothers & Sisters – we have been adopted into the family of God. You have a new spiritual family. You have your biological family, but you also have your spiritual family. Those sitting here today, look around you, these are your Brothers and Sisters “In Him”.

Romans 8:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Brothers & Sisters – “In Him”, we are adopted. Welcome to the family.

In Him – Redeemed & Forgiven

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

Brothers & Sisters – The power and penalty of sin is broken by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and His offer of salvation.

God the Father summed up all things “In Him”, meaning God’s planned a way for man to have spiritual life by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. This was the mystery of His will, that was revealed in the God/Man Jesus Christ.

Brothers & Sisters – “In Him”, you are redeemed and forgiven of your sins (past, present and future).

In Him – An Inheritance

In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

What do we inherit by being “In Him”?

When Christ dies and rose again, and by our belief in the Gospel, we inherit all that He possessed. That is every spiritual blessing “In Him”.

We inherit it all by the finished work of Jesus Christ!

Brothers & Sisters – “In Him” you have inherited every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.

In Him – Sealed

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

When I think of being sealed, I think of a zip lock bag that my wife uses in the kitchen. She seals onions after we cut them, or vegetables etc. Paul is saying Christians are sealed in the bag, secure and safe. The bag is Christ, and we are in the bag. We are “In Him”.

Brothers & Sisters – This is our salvation, once we believe the Gospel, we are secure and safe “in Him”. No one can take us out of the bag. We are permanently sealed “In Him”. This is a pledge of our inheritance.

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