

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN CHRIST

Eph 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul reminds us of what we have in Christ.
- B. "In" means to be part of something, to have a connection with something (or someone) larger than yourself
 - 1. Again & again we see the same type of phrase repeated: "In Christ Jesus" V 1; "In Christ" V 3,10,12; "In Him" V 4,7,9; "In the Beloved" V 6;
 - 2. All point to where these privileges are.
- C. Let's study a little about what faithful saints enjoy

DISCUSSION:

I. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSING - Vs 3

- A. As the song says: "count your blessings" We have
 - 1. The Love of God Rom 5:5
 - 2. Reconciliation Rom 5:10-11
 - 3. Joy Jhn 15:11
 - 4. Rescue and Forgiveness Col 1:13-14
 - 5. Participation in Divine Nature 2 Pet 1:4
 - 6. Fellowship 1Jhn 1:3
 - 7. The anticipation of Heaven Col 1:5
- B. On & on we could go and still not be able to count all that God has laid on us. 1Cor 2:9-10 - Revealed to us through His word, we need to learn to search for and recognize them.

II. WE ARE CHOSEN IN HIM - Vs 4

- A. Remember being chosen for a game in school? Not much joy unless you were one of first to be picked.
- B. We were chosen "before the foundation of the world!" - What a thrill to know that God always had a certain people in His mind.
- C. God always had in mind a certain people who would be His.
 - 1. They are "holy and blameless" (Vs 4) Rom 8:29-30
 - 2. How to know God has chosen you? Choose Him! 2Pet 1:10-11

III. WE ARE ADOPTED - Vs 5

- A. It would be enough to simply be chosen as His people, but He has chosen us as His children!
 - 1. Heard an adopted parent say, "Other parents had no choice about their child, but we chose you!"
 - 2. "See what love Father has bestowed..." 1Jhn 3:1
 - 3. What a thought: To be adopted by ultimate Father!
- B. We are granted a wonderful privilege Jhn 1:12-13
- C. We are to uphold family way and Name Rom 8:14-16

- 1. The Spirit testifies with our spirit when our conduct corroborates the word of God.
- 2. Our lives bear testimony that we are His! 2Cor 6:16b-7:1

IV. WE ARE REDEEMED IN HIM - Vs 7

- A. Having sold ourselves to the devil to serve sin, we have been bought back with a price, a ransom we could never pay. 1Pet 1:17-20; Mk 10:45
- B. There is something of such worth in you and every person that He willingly paid the highest price.
 - 1. Without Him, I am a bag of nothing but in Him I am filled to overflowing.
 - 2. Riches of His grace were lavished on us! Eph 1:8
 - 3. He wills that we be filled so that we can lavish praise on God. Jhn 10:10; 2Cor 4:15

V. WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE - Vs 11

- A. ASV reads "in whom also we were made a heritage"
- B. Seems to imply that God's people are a special inheritance to God Himself (See Eph 1:18) Perhaps a spiritual application of OT concept in Deut 32:9
- B. However the context of the passage leans more toward what the saint enjoys in His relationship with the Father through Jesus.
 - 1. Notice Rom 8:17
 - 2. We share it all: suffering and glory Phil 3:8-11
 - 3. Some of it we enjoy now Eph 2:6; 1Pet 1:3-5; Mk 10:29,30

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let's use this study to further strengthen our hope.
- C. Notice though these blessings are for saints who are faithful Eph 1:1
- D. Remember your responsibility in the blessings He wishes for His children!