

Theology Tidbits

Ephesians 1:3

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Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

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,

This simple verse of scripture is “packed” with Spiritual truths that go unnoticed by most readers! Most people, who call themselves Christian, go through their lives on a quest seeking out the blessings of God! They do this by trying to “Be Good,” or by doing good works, hoping to gain God’s favor, thereby feeling worthy to receive blessings for their effort. However, this particular passage of scripture makes a very profound statement... it says in the latter part of the verse, “*who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...*” this is a profound revelation! “How so,” one might ask? When you go back to the Greek rendition of this passage, you will find it is written in what is called the “aorist tense.” What this implies, is that there was a point in the past when the blessings, (in this case, “every - meaning all) spiritual blessings in heavenly places, were (at some time prior) obtained, and made available to us! You or I have nothing to do with that, it was all the result of what Jesus did for us! Paul is in essence saying that *as true believers in Christ*, all the blessings in heaven *are already ours!* We do not have to work for these blessings; we simply have to discover them, and then enjoy them! Perhaps the reason we do not enjoy the blessings of God now, is that we concentrate more on what we see as our problems rather than the promises of God. Many people are very blind to the promises of God, and the benefits of being among His Chosen! What could be the cause of this blindness?

Points to Ponder

1. How can we go about discovering the blessings brought out in this passage?
2. Have you ever done things in an effort to attain blessings? (discuss those efforts)
3. Did your efforts result in blessings or disappointment?
4. If your efforts led to disappointment, who do you think was ultimately responsible? (See LK 11:11)
5. How can you encourage someone with the knowledge of the blessings available to them?
6. Think of what we know about heaven as being a place of Peace, Joy, No Pain, No Suffering, Health, Abundance. If these are the blessings in heaven, and as this passage states, “we have already been blessed with them,” what hinders us from enjoying them now?