



GOT BENEFITS?

In our present job market, one of the most asked questions when considering a new job is about benefits. Which benefits do you think are most commonly sought after?

Job benefits are now a part of the job “package.” In many segments of job opportunities, these are considered equally important with remuneration.

The benefits of being “in Christ” are listed in Ephesians one. They are incomparable, eternal, and totally due to the grace of God through Christ.

LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD

Last week we learned that God “has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” These blessings are for all who are “in Christ:” “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.” God not only blessed us, but He seals up our inheritance with Jesus by sending the Holy Spirit to indwell us. Praise God!

This week, we are going to look deeply into some of those blessings and how these truths should lead us to live with faith, joy, and hope and thanksgiving to God.

Read through Ephesians 1:7-14 and consider these questions to help us learn from God’s Word.

What blessing do you observe in verses 7-8 and what makes this possible?

- Redemption = Christ paid the ransom to free you from captivity . . .
 - To the legal demands of the law (See Galatians 3:13-14)
 - To being a prisoner of sin (Galatians 3:22)
 - To the will of Satan (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
 - To the corruption that is caused by our own sin and the influence of the world (Romans 8:21)
- Our redemption was accomplished through the blood payment of Jesus Christ
- His blood also achieved the “forgiveness of sins”
- This came about because God is extremely gracious (Exodus 34:6)

What next blessing do you observe in verses 9-10 and what makes this possible?

- To those “in Christ,” God has made known to us the mystery of His will, that in the fullness of time He will unite all things in Christ.
- This unity of all things was God’s purpose in sending Christ. That is, at the end of time, all things will be under the perfect headship of Christ.
- This give us hope for the future, and security in the present

What blessing do you observe in verses 11-12?

- We were included in the will of God to “be for the praise of His glory.

What blessing do you observe in verse 13?

- When we believed in the word of truth, the good news, we were included in Christ and received salvation
- Salvation = rescued from the wrath of God that we deserved because of our sin (s)

What blessing do you observe in verses 13-14?

- We were sealed with the Holy Spirit when we believed.
- The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance until the redemption happens (at the return of Christ)
- Our inheritance is being with Jesus Christ

DISCUSS TOGETHER

The end result of God’s grace and blessings is to be “the praise of His glory” (v. 14). What praise can we lift up to God right now for His many blessings found in verses 3-14?

How should this review of God’s blessings change how we think, feel, and live? How might the people in our worlds see this in our lives?

Whom in your world do you pray to know these blessings? How is God using you to help them become a disciple?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

This passage should stir us to the praise of God’s glory and the wonder of God Himself. Reread this passage this week and thank God for each of these amazing blessings.

PLEASE PRAY . . .

- For the grandparents you know as they point their grandkids to Jesus
- For the people in your worlds who don’t yet know God’s blessings
- For our many friends who need God’s touch of healing and help