

## OUR GUARANTEE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

### Ephesians 1:18-23

**Introduction:** For some, being a Christian is a one time thing and that is when he/she believed in Jesus Christ and became saved, a child of God, a member of God's Family and eternity in Heaven secured. That was it, that was all that he/she had to do, nothing more. However that is not all there is to being a Christian. There is a certain way of life that one is expected by God to live and during one's lifetime God has much for that person to do and also has many blessings He wants to give. Paul's prayer in Ephesians is for all believers and he gives guidelines and explanations of living such a life.

v18 - "eyes enlightened" - Even at the moment of belief, one's eyes are "opened" and he/she sees things as never before. Once one's eyes have been enlightened, the greatness of God's power is even more surpassing.

1. "Hope" is stirred up, resulting from being called of God.
  - Sadly, those who have not accepted Jesus Christ do not have that hope.
2. "Riches" come from being adopted by God. A believer becomes an heir to all that God has.
  - God's word reveals very clearly what awaits the unbelievers, the lost.
  - God's word also reveals what awaits God's Children, the wealth, etc.
3. "Greatness"- The believer experiences the powers and abilities of God.
  - God uses all that He has for His Children.

v19 - "working in Christ" - The future of the believer is in Jesus Christ and the believer is to depend completely upon Jesus.

- God's exceeding greatness and power that can be released to people is seen in Jesus Christ.
- See all that Jesus can do and who He is and that is the image of God.

v20 - God raised Jesus Christ from the dead (discuss the event).

- God's greatness and power is revealed by the resurrection of Jesus, and all for mankind.
- God has caused Jesus Christ to sit at the right hand of the throne of God.
  - The right hand position is a place of honor and respect and power and it was a gift of God to Jesus.
  - It was from God, but it was about and because of what Jesus did and is doing for man's salvation.
  - The power and greatness of God is revealed in this action with Jesus Christ.

v21 - God placed Jesus Christ above all authority - principalities.

- All heavenly beings seemed to have certain levels of rank, with Lucifer having the highest position at one time among the angels.
- God placed Jesus Christ above all powers.
- God placed Jesus Christ above all might.
- God placed Jesus Christ above all dominions.
- God placed Jesus Christ above every name anywhere, at anytime, forever.

v22 - God has put all things under Christ's feet.

- "Under the foot" is to be under one's authority, therefore everything is under Jesus Christ's authority.
- God has given to Jesus Christ the Church, the called out ones, Christians.
  - The first name was "oikos," meaning people, then Constantine changed it to "kuriokos," the place of worship, then "Church" came to refer to the building where the oikos came to meet.
  - Today's meaning of Church is both the building and the congregation of that building and all believers in Jesus Christ.

- The Biblical term for Church is the people, the called out, the separated, the believers in Jesus Christ.
  - Paul used the term Church for the local body of believers.
  - Jesus said "upon this rock I will build MY Church..."
- Jesus has a great interest in His Church and loves it dearly. Ephesians 5; Revelation 19:9
- "...all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord..."
  - No matter what, God can work things out to the good for Christians.
- When Christians get to heaven, they (we) will see Jesus in human form, a human body like ours.
  - God's Word describes Jesus as being the head and believers make up the rest of the body.

God's gift of the Church to Jesus Christ is vital to those who believe in Jesus Christ:

- It gives the believer peace of mind while he/she lives out his/her life here on earth.
- The believer has eternal life with Jesus Christ.
- The believer will have a new everlasting body.
- The believer has a home being prepared for him/her in heaven.
- The believer is heir to all of God's wealth and riches.
- The believer has blessings while here on earth and then when he/she gets to heaven, more blessings.

Jesus Christ said "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

- So it is with the Church - the Church is to be the image of Jesus Christ...see the Church and you see Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. There are only two kinds of people on earth - saved and lost.
  - The saved are those who have believed in Jesus Christ and the lost are those who have not.
2. Those who are saved, believers in Jesus Christ, Christians have a wonderful life here on earth and even more wonderful life awaiting them in heaven.
3. Jesus Christ is the ONLY reason there are blessings for the believer here and a home in heaven awaiting him/her.
4. Christians make up the Church and the Church will be the bride of Christ in heaven.
5. Every single person must believe in Jesus Christ in order to be a part of God's Family and to receive God's blessings - HAVE YOU BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST?