

In Christ

2 Cor. 5:17

INTRO: Because of sin, man was lost. He was separated from God by sin. Isa. 59:1-2. He was doomed without any hope. Eph. 2:12-13. The Gentiles had no hope. The Jews could not be saved by animal blood, so mankind was hopelessly lost. But thanks be to God who loved us and sent His only begotten Son to die for us. Rom. 5:10; Rom. 8:3; Rom; 8:23. Outside of Christ we are lost; there is no hope! But, thank God, in Christ we can be saved!

I. WHAT IS IN CHRIST?

- A. All Spiritual Blessings. Eph. 1:3.
- B. Redemption (redeemed means "buy back"). Eph. 1:7.
- C. Inheritance. Eph. 1:11.
- D. Reconciliation. Changes condition; enmity is removed. Eph. 2:16. A change is made that removes the enmity (hate) and brings together. We are changed and brought back to God.
- E. Comfort. Phil. 2:1.
- F. Salvation. 2 Tim. 2:10; Eph. 5:23.
- G. No Condemnation. Rom. 8:1.
- H. Blessed If We Die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13.

II. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST

- A. Chosen in Christ. Eph. 1:4. How were we chosen? 2 Thess. 2:13-14. We were chosen by belief in the truth; called by the gospel.
- B. Grace in Christ (grace means unmerited favor). Eph. 1:6; Eph. 2:8.
- C. Created Anew in Christ. Eph. 2:10; Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:17.
- D. Established in Christ. 2 Cor. 1:21. The Greek word *bebaioo* is translated "establish." It means to confirm, make firm, establish, make secure. God establishes us. We are made firm, confirmed, and made secure in Christ. Col. 2:6-7.
- E. Approved in Christ. Rom. 16:10; Rom. 5:1-5.
- F. Perfect in Christ. Col. 1:28; Col. 2:10.
- G. Asleep in Christ. 1 Cor. 15:18. If there is no resurrection, the faithful Christians who died have perished. Paul said they have not, but will be raised. 1 Thess. 4:14-18.

III. IN CHRIST, IS TO BE:

- A. In the Body. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18.
- B. In the Church. Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23.
- C. In the Kingdom. John 3:3-5.

IV. HOW WE GET INTO CHRIST

- A. Believe unto Righteousness. Mark. 16:16; Rom. 10:10.
- B. Repent unto Life. Acts 17:30; Acts 11:18.
- C. Confession unto Salvation. Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10.

D. Baptized into Christ. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27.

CONCL: In Christ is salvation. You can enjoy all spiritual blessings in Christ. I know you believe that Jesus is the Christ. Repent and confess your faith; then be baptized into Christ. Do these now!