

## IN CHRIST...

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Read Ephesians 1:3
  - 1. More than 25 times in the book of Ephesians, Paul uses the phrase “in Christ,” “in the Lord,” “in Jesus,” “in Him,” or something similar
  - 2. He talks about the redemption that is found only in Christ
  - 3. He talks about the fellowship we have in Christ
  - 4. He talks about the spiritual blessings available to those who are in Christ
  - 5. “In Christ” is one of the prevalent themes of this epistle
- B. But Ephesians is not the only place in the New Testament that talks about this concept of being “in Christ” and what is available “in Christ”
  - 1. Romans 8:1 says, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
  - 2. Paul addresses the letter of I Corinthians to *them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus...*
  - 3. We find consolation in Christ, we have faith in Christ, we rejoice in Christ
- C. There is yet another verse that talks about something “in Christ” that I would like to briefly examine with you tonight
  - 1. Please turn your Bible to II Timothy 2:10
  - 2. Paul has just reminded Timothy that Jesus was raised from the dead, and even though Paul was persecuted and thrown in prison, the truth – the gospel – the Word of God is not bound
  - 3. Then the apostle says in verse 10...

### I. SALVATION IS IN CHRIST JESUS

- A. And if you think back to Ephesians 1:3, where Paul said that “all spiritual blessings” are “in Christ,” then it just makes sense – of course salvation is in Christ!
  - 1. Jesus Himself said in John 14:6, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
  - 2. Mohammed can’t do it, Buddha can’t do it, even Moses can’t do it – Jesus is the only way to come to the Father
  - 3. He is the one who shed His blood to atone for our sins
  - 4. So if you want salvation, you have to follow Christ
- B. What is salvation?
  - 1. The Greek word is *soteria*
  - 2. This word appears in the New Testament 44 times
  - 3. Thayer defines it as “deliverance from the molestation of enemies”
  - 4. What enemy do we have that is greater than Satan?
  - 5. I Peter 5:8, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...*
  - 6. If we are on God’s side, and we are obedient in following His will – if we are “in Christ” – then we know that we will be

delivered from Satan – we will be saved from the eternal torment of hell

## **II. BUT THERE IS MORE TO SALVATION THAN DELIVERANCE FROM ETERNAL CONDEMNATION**

- A. Thayer continues his definition of salvation: “the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God”
  - 1. And if you look at II Timothy 2:10 again, you will see that Paul includes that as well
  - 2. II Timothy 2:10 (emphasize “with eternal glory”)
- B. It’s not just avoiding the bad, but it’s also receiving the good!
  - 1. Listen to some of those good things that await those who are “in Christ”
  - 2. John 14:2-3
  - 3. II Timothy 4:8
  - 4. Revelation 21:3-4
  - 5. There are a great number of blessings in heaven – but we have to be “in Christ” to receive them

## **III. SO WE MUST ASK THE QUESTION, HOW DOES ONE GET “IN CHRIST”?**

- A. Is there a “sinner’s prayer” to say, or can we do a certain number of good works, or perhaps we have to seek out the approval of some religious leader...is this what it takes to get “in Christ”?
  - 1. You can search the Scriptures until the Lord returns, and you will not find a single one of these things prescribed
  - 2. God tells us how to be saved, but that does not include any “sinner’s prayer” or good deeds or “priestly” blessings
- B. Galatians 3:27, *For as many of you as have been baptized **into Christ** have put on Christ.*
  - 1. Did you see that? We are “baptized **into Christ**”
  - 2. That’s how we get “in Christ”
- C. Romans 6:3
  - 1. Again, we are “baptized **into Jesus Christ**”
  - 2. In so doing, we are put in a position to receive the blessings that God has promised to those “in Christ”
  - 3. Romans 6:4

## **INVITATION**