

Baptism (part 6 of 6) - In Christ By Alan Hitchen

Although we may strongly desire the salary and benefits of a job, we know we will never receive them unless we apply for the job and are hired by the company. Once hired, we have a working relationship with the company and all its benefits now belong to us.

In exactly the same way, when we hear about salvation and forgiveness we strongly desire to receive them. But until we hear God's word, believe it, and fulfill its demands we will never receive them. It is only after we obey the gospel and develop a working relationship with the Lord that we receive all the blessings of Jesus death upon the cross.

Blessings "in Christ"

Jesus is "*the way, the truth, and the life,*" and "*no one comes to the Father except through me*" (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only portal through which we can come to the Father and the Father's blessings can come to us. In God's eternal purpose all spiritual blessings purchased for us by Jesus on the cross are only given to those who enter into fellowship with Jesus. God "*has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*" (Eph. 1:3). In exactly the same way that a salary and benefits are only given to those In a business, God has given every spiritual blessing only to those "In Christ:"

Rom. 3:24 justified freely by grace; redemption that is *in Christ Jesus*
Rom. 6:11 dead indeed to sin but alive to God *in Christ Jesus*
Rom. 6:23 the gift of God is eternal life *in Christ Jesus*
Rom. 8:1 there is no condemnation to those who are *in Christ Jesus*
Rom. 8:39 ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God *in Christ Jesus*
1 Cor. 1:2 to those who are sanctified *in Christ Jesus*
1 Cor. 1:4 grace of God given you *in Christ Jesus*
1 Cor. 15:22 as in Adam all die, even so *in Christ* all shall be made alive.
2 Cor. 1:21 establishes us with you *in Christ* and has anointed us
2 Cor. 2:14 thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph *in Christ*
2 Cor. 3:14 the veil is taken away *in Christ*.
2 Cor. 5:17 if anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation; all become new.
2 Cor. 5:19 God was *in Christ* reconciling the world to Himself
Gal. 2:4 our liberty which we have *in Christ Jesus*
Gal. 3:14 the blessing of Abraham might come upon Gentiles *in Christ*
Eph. 1:3 every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places *in Christ*
Eph. 2:6 raised us up together, made us sit together *in Christ*
Eph. 2:7 riches of his grace and kindness toward us *in Christ Jesus*
Eph. 2:10 we are His workmanship, created *in Christ* for good works
Eph. 2:13 *in Christ Jesus* you who were far off ... brought near by blood
Eph. 4:32 Just as God also *in Christ* also forgave you
Phil. 3:14 the goal for the prize of the upward call of God *in Christ Jesus*

Col. 1:28 that we may present every man **perfect** *in Christ Jesus*
 1 Th. 4:16 And the dead *in Christ* will **rise first**.
 2 Tim. 1:1 the **promise of life** which is *in Christ Jesus*
 2 Tim. 1:9 **purpose and grace** which was given us *in Christ Jesus*
 2 Tim. 2:1 be strong in the **grace** that is *in Christ Jesus*
 2 Tim. 2:10 obtain **salvation** which is *in Christ Jesus* with **eternal glory**
 1 Pet. 5:14 **Peace** to you all who are *in Christ Jesus*. Amen.

Since all these things are only given to those who are “*in Christ*,” our highest priority as a Christian is to do everything necessary to enter and remain “*in Christ*.” But how is this done and what role does baptism play? Entrance into Christ is reserved for those who submit to the command to be baptized. While belief in the gospel, repentance of our sins, and confessing Christ as Lord are all commanded, they do not by themselves bring us into Christ. God did not want us “*ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death*” (Rom. 6:3) and that “*as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (Gal. 3:27). Only after we “*repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ*” (Acts 2:38) and only after one “*believes and is baptized*” (Mk. 16:15-16) do we receive every spiritual blessing that exists “*in Christ*.”

What Changes after we are “in Christ?”

When we were *baptized into Christ* and *put on Christ* what actually occurred? Did we enter a new *spiritual* location like being “*in America*” or getting “*in a car*?” Did our *spiritual* relationship change as being “*in a family*” or “*in the medical profession*?” Did we change our *spiritual* function, as our heart and lungs are *in our body*?

It is all of this and more! “*For by one Spirit we were all baptized **into** one body*” (1 Cor. 12:12-13) and “*translated us **into** the kingdom of his dear Son*” (Col. 1:13). Once in that body, we are also in “*the church which is His body*” (Eph. 1:22-23) and “***in** the household of God, which is the church*” (1 Tim. 3:15). “*As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides **in** the vine, neither can you, unless you abide **in** Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides **in** Me, and I **in** him, bears much fruit*” (Jn. 15:1-8). But all this is still only a small portion of the realm we enter when we are in Christ:

Rom. 8:2 the **law of the Spirit of life** *in Christ Jesus* made me free...
 Rom. 12:5 we being many are **one body** *in Christ*,
 Rom. 16:3 Greet ... my **fellow-workers** *in Christ Jesus*,
 Rom. 16:7 who also **were** *in Christ* **before me**.
 1 Cor. 3:1 not speak to you as spiritual people but to **babes** *in Christ*.
 1 Cor. 4:15 *in Christ Jesus* I **begot you** through the gospel.
 1 Cor. 4:17 remind you of **my ways** *in Christ*, as I teach everywhere
 1 Cor. 15:18 they also that are **fallen asleep** *in Christ*
 1 Cor. 15:22 as in Adam all died so also *in Christ* shall all **be made alive**.
 2 Cor. 12:2 I know **a man** *in Christ*, fourteen years ago
 2 Cor. 12:19 In the sight of God **speak we** *in Christ*.

Gal. 1:22 unknown by face to **the churches of Judea** which were *in Christ*

Gal. 3:28 no male/female; bond/free for you are **all one** *in Christ_Jesus*

Eph. 1:1 to the saints ... in Ephesus, and **faithful** *in Christ_Jesus*:

Eph. 1:10 He might **gather together in one all things** *in Christ,*

Eph. 2:6 **raised us** and made us to **sit with him**... *in Christ_Jesus*

Eph. 2:10 are his workmanship **created** *in Christ_Jesus* for good works

Eph. 2:13 Now *in Christ_Jesus* you ... once far off have been **brought near**

Eph. 3:6 Gentiles partakers of **His promise** *in Christ* through the gospel

Eph. 3:11 to the **eternal purpose which he purposed** *in Christ_Jesus*

Eph. 3:21 to him (be) the glory in the church and *in Christ_Jesus*

Phil. 1:1 To **all the saints** *in Christ_Jesus* who are in Philippi,

Phil. 1:13 become evident... palace guard...that **my chains** are *in Christ*

Phil. 4:21 Salute **every saint** *in Christ_Jesus.*

Col. 1:2 To the **saints and faithful brethren** *in Christ* in Colosse

1 Th. 2:14 the **churches of God which are in Judea** *in Christ_Jesus.*

1 Th. 5:18 in everything give thanks; this is **the will of God** *in Christ Jesus*

1 Tim. 1:14 with **faith and love** which is *in Christ_Jesus.*

1 Tim. 2:7 I am **speaking the truth** *in Christ* and not lying

2 Tim. 1:13 you heard from me in **faith and love** which is *in Christ_Jesus.*

2 Tim. 3:12 all who desire to **live godly** *in Christ_Jesus* will suffer

Philem. 1:8 I might be very bold *in Christ* to command you what is fitting

Philem. 1:23 Epaphras, **my fellow-prisoner** *in Christ_Jesus,*

1 Pet. 3:16 those who revile your **good conduct** *in Christ* may be ashamed.

1 Pet. 5:10 God of all grace... **called ...to his eternal glory** *in Christ*

Summing up all things “in Christ”

It was always God’s intent “*to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things upon the earth in him*” (Eph. 1:10). All spiritual blessings are in Christ! All spiritual relationships are in Christ! All spiritual locations are in Christ! All spiritual functions are in Christ!

“*The manifold wisdom of God*” which was “*made known through the church*” was “*according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Eph. 3:10-11). When we are *in Christ*, everything God had in mind from eternity for his people is given to us. When we are *in Christ*, all that resulted from his death become ours.

We enter Christ in baptism because it is at that moment “*our old man was crucified with him,*” and “*we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*” (Rom. 6:3-8). It is at that moment that God “*has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses*” (Col. 2:13). So baptism puts us into Christ and “*if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*” (2 Cor. 5:17).

All relationships are new! Jesus is our Lord, Savior, Shepherd, Head, and King. God delivered “*us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (Col. 1:13). We “*have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*” (Col. 3:9-10). We are a new creation in Christ and all blessings are ours!

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory **in the church and in Christ Jesus** throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)*