

Guest Teacher:

# IN CHRIST: Every Spiritual Blessing and Wholeness of Life

BY PASTOR BOB HOEKSTRA



“In Christ”—such a simple phrase. Yet, in its truths are the very treasures of heaven that we are to draw upon by faith here on earth. “In Christ” is what makes possible a life of discipleship, witness, and fruitfulness. Abiding “in Christ” will keep our hearts from drifting into the ways of man for our hope, allegiance, enablement, and fulfillment.

## Our Spiritual Position

“In Christ” describes our spiritual dwelling place if we are believers in Him. Ephesians 1:13 declares, *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.* Now, sealed in Christ, we live in Him and by Him. As surely as a fish lives in the ocean and upon the resources of the ocean, we are to live in Christ, drawing upon *the unsearchable riches of Christ* (Ephesians 3:8b).

So, we should regularly consider the blessings that are ours in this “limitless spiritual ocean” of the person and work of Jesus.

## Every Spiritual Blessing

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (Ephesians 1:3). All of the blessings that God has in heaven for man’s benefit and use here on earth are already ours in Christ. We need to pray for one another that *the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling* (Ephesians 1:17b-18a). We need the Lord to reveal to us what blessings are there for us in His Son that we might know of them and grow in faith and confidence toward God.

## New Lives

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Another glorious reality of being in Christ is that we are new people. We have a new spiritual existence before God and with God. We have been born again. We are not merely reforming or “turning over a new leaf.” We have a new life from God, to be developed by Him as we live in Christ. We do not have to dig into the old life and try to change it. Instead, we are called to a new, heavenly focus. *Set your mind on things above, not on things on*

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*the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God* (Colossians 3:2-3). We now find our new life and grow in it by seeking after Christ. As we get to know Him and trust in Him, He increasingly demonstrates the life He wants to live in and through us. *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me* (Galatians 2:20).

## Wholeness of Life

Colossians 2:9-10a reveals another perspective of God’s provision for us in Christ. *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.* All that God is and offers to man is found in the person and work of Christ. Therefore, those who are in Him are already complete now. We don’t have to develop wholeness on

our own. It is right there with us in Christ to be drawn upon. We cannot be spiritually complete in and of ourselves or our own human resources. However, we can be in Him. We can increasingly enjoy this great spiritual reality as our daily portion, if we will only to look to Christ and hope in Him, instead of in ourselves.

Ultimately, what are we to do with these truths? Ask the Lord to keep revealing them to us through the teaching ministry of His Holy Spirit. The Spirit is able to guide us into all the truth of the Scriptures and to make these truths our personal possession.

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth ... He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you* (John 16:13-14).

Also, the more we get into God’s Word to hear from the Lord, the

more our faith in Him and His provisions will grow. *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17).

Let us prayerfully and expectantly seek our Lord concerning such heavenly riches. Then, as He works them into our lives, let’s give Him all the glory for what He is doing. Also, let’s minister these truths to others so that they might know the Lord and grow in Him. Additionally, let’s pray for all of God’s people around the world that we all might abound in these treasures that are ours “in Christ.” ➔

*Note: Bob Hoekstra is the director of Living in Christ Ministries and has been serving among Calvary Chapel churches for more than 25 years. Bob’s online daily devotional, Day by Day by Grace, is available online.*

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