THE BENEFITS OF BEING IN CHRIST

(Ephesians 1)

January 1, 2006

"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, NKJV)

Personal Notes:

Sermon Outline:

I Why does Paul write about Christ?

- A We must first answer the question of, "Who is Paul?"
  - 1 "a Hebrew of the Hebrews" (Philippians 3:4b-6)
  - 2 Brought up at the feet of Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
  - 3 The chief of sinners. (2 Timothy 1:15)
  - 4 Paul was redeemed by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 1:7)
- B What did Paul know of Christ?
  - 1 Paul saw Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:8)
  - 2 Paul talked with Christ. (Acts 9:4-6)
  - 3 He wanted to know only Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:2; Philippians 3:10)
  - 4 He preached Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:23)
- C Paul wrote to the Ephesians knowing all spiritual blessings, all redemption, all reconciliation, all good things and all hope is in Christ.

II What are the benefits of knowing Christ?

- A Without Christ, there is no hope and no God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)
- B Without Christ, salvation is not possible. (John 3:16; Romans 5:12-21, 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:22)
- C A knowledge of Christ shows where you are able to live. (John 14:2,3)
- D A knowledge of Christ leads to salvation. (John 3:1-21)

III The benefits of being in Christ

- A Every spiritual blessing is found in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)
- B You can be holy and without blame before Him. (Ephesians 1:4)
- C You have redemption and forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7)
- D You have obtained an inheritance. (Ephesians 1:11)
- E You have a seal of the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

IV How do you get to be in Christ?

- A "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27)
- B (Romans 6:3,4)