

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 1:1-6.**
- B. Tonight's lesson lists 5 very importance blessings (privileges) that every Xian enjoys by being in X.
- C. There is just something about the name "Christian" that is so important:
 - 1. It is a name that way prophesied (Isa. 62:2).
And the nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.
 - 2. The disciples were called Christians (Ac. 11:26).
and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
 - 3. Agrippa knew that what Paul wanted was for him to become a Xian (Ac. 26:28).
And Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."
 - 4. Believers are not to be ashamed when they suffer as a Xian (1Pet. 4:16).
but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

I. I HAVE ALL MY SINS FORGIVEN.

- A. Sin is the number one problem of life. Sin separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2).
Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2**
But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.
- B. Everyone is guilty of sin (Rom. 3:10, 23).
(**Rom 3:10**) as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
(**Rom 3:23**) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- C. But when a person becomes a Xian, they are baptized to forgive their sins (Ac. 2:38).
And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Baptism allows a person to come in contact with the blood of X (Rom. 6:3-4).
Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- E. Those who are baptized are a new creature in X (2Cor. 5:17).
Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- F. By walking faithfully, the Xian enjoys the continual forgiveness of sins (1Jn. 1:7).
but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

II. I HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

- A. The second great blessing of being baptized according to Ac. 2:38, is the receiving of the gift of the HS. This is the receiving of the HS, Himself, not a gift given by the HS.
- B. The HS is given to everyone who obeys God (Ac. 5:32).
"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."
- C. We honor the HS in our life when we take care of our physical bodies (1Cor. 6:19-20).
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
- D. The HS is a deposit or earnest of our inheritance to come (Eph. 1:14; 4:30).
(**Eph 1:14**) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
(**Eph 4:30**) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- E. We must have the HS living within us to be in fellowship with X (Rom. 8:9-11).
However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

III. I HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. One of the great blessings of being a Xian is being part of the church. The fellowship and encouragement of other believers helps everyone stay faithful.
- B. Evil companions will corrupt even the faithful child of God (1Cor. 15:33).
Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
- C. The grace that has saved us also instructs us to deny ungodliness and live godly lives (Ti. 2:11-12).
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
- D. Every Xian has a responsibility to encourage others daily (Heb. 10:24-25; 3:12-13).
(Heb 3:12-13) Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
(Heb 10:24-25) and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- E. May we be devoted to the fellowship like the early Xians were (Ac. 2:42).
And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

IV. I HAVE A GOD TO WHOM I CAN PRAY.

- A. When Cornelius, as a non-Xian prayed to God, his prayers ascended as a memorial to the heavenly Father. The prayers of a Xian do so much more.
- B. Xians know that when they pray God will listen and answer (Jn. 14:13,14).
"And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."
- C. Fact is we know that when we pray we will probably receive more that we asked for (Jas. 5:16)!
Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
- D. May we always pray with great confidence (Heb. 4:16; 1Jn. 5:14-15).
(Heb 4:16) Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.
(1Jn 5:14-15) And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

V. I HAVE THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. The Xian who is striving to please God according to His word, is to be a Xian that is full of confidence concerning their salvation. Eternal life is no longer a mystery or a "guessing game."
- B. John wrote many things, but the over all theme of the letter of 1John is that of having a full knowledge (confidence in) salvation (1Jn. 5:11-13).
And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.
- C. Peter said that our salvation (inheritance) is "incorruptible," "undefiled," and "fades not away." It is even "reserved in heaven" (1Pet. 1:3-4).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,...

- D. Jesus did not want us to worry or fret about eternity. He gave many precious promises concerning our life, and even that life after death (Jn. 14:1-4).
“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. **4** “And you know the way where I am going.”

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Five wonderful blessings in being a Christian:
1. The forgiveness of all sins.
 2. The gift of the HS.
 3. Fellowship and encouragement in the church will all of God’s people.
 4. A heavenly Father who is ready and willing to answer my prayers.
 5. The full assurance of eternal life.
- B. With these kinds of things going for the Christian, why would anyone not want to be one?
- C. These blessings can be yours if you will be obedient to X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Christians; erring Christians.