

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Col. 1:13-14; Eph, 1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12.**
- B. We live in a 4-dimensional universe: Height, Depth, Width (or length) and Time.
- C. We live in a three-kingdom earth: Plants, Humans and Animals.
- D. But mankind lives in one of two other kingdoms, spiritual kingdoms. One lives either in Satan's kingdom of darkness or Christ's kingdom of light (Ac. 26:18; Eph. 5:8-9; 6:12; Col. 1:13; 1Pet. 2:9; 1Jn. 1:6-7).
(Acts 26:18) ...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'
(Eph 5:8-9) for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
(Eph 6:12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
(Col 1:13) For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
(1Pet 2:9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
(1Jn 1:6-7) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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.
- E. Both of these kingdoms are in "the heavenlies" or describe "the heavenly places."

I. FROM ONE KINGDOM (REALM) TO THE OTHER.

- A. God through X has done the following (according to Col. 1:13):
 - 1. Delivered us.
 - 2. Transplanted us.
 - 3. Given us redemption.
 - 4. The forgiveness of sins.
- B. During this transfer we did not leave any of the physical kingdoms of the earth, or jump out of our 4-dimensional universe. This was a change in our spiritual relationships.

II. FIVE BLESSINGS AND PRIVILEGES IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

- A. The book of Ephesians mentions "the heavenly places" five times and gives insight into the great blessings and privileges there.
- B. First, **all spiritual blessings are in X** in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3):
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,
 - 1. There are physical blessings from God even to those who are not Xians. For example God gives the sunshine and the rain on the just and the unjust (Mt. 5:45).
in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - 2. There is no assurance of spiritual blessings outside of X.
 - 3. Everyone in the heavenly places has rights and privileges to all spiritual blessings.
 - 4. God will always continue to bless in the future.
- C. Second, **the resurrected "X sits at the right hand of God** in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:20):
which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
 - 1. On the right hand means a place of approval and authority.
 - 2. Our Savior did not die in vain.
 - 3. We know He sits there to make mediation for the saints.

- D. Third, **Xians are seated with Him there** in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6):
and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,
1. As saved individuals we share in X's glory.
 2. We are approved by God, and know the riches of His grace.
 3. We rule and reign with Jesus (2Tim. 2:11-13).
It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; **12** If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; **13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.
- E. Fourth, **we can reveal the mystery of God's wisdom to the world** (Eph. 3:10):
in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.
1. It is the job of the church to speak the wisdom of God.
 2. Which is Jesus and His gospel to be preached to the kingdom of darkness.
 3. "Powers and principalities" are all kinds of men, all men (1Cor. 2:6-8).
Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; **7** but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; **8** the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;
- F. Fifth, **our struggle is against the forces of darkness** (Eph. 6:12):
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
1. We know who and what the real enemy is.
 2. World problems, governments, are problems but are not THE problem.
 3. As Col. 1:13 says, it is against darkness that we must fight.
 4. We must guard against going back and being overcome by the kingdom of darkness.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. A review of the five blessings:
1. All spiritual blessings are in X in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3).
 2. The resurrected "X sits at the right hand of God in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:20).
 3. Xians are seated with Him there in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).
 4. We can reveal the mystery of God's wisdom to the world (Eph. 3:10).
 5. Our struggle is against the forces of darkness (Eph. 6:12).
- B. The most important kingdom in we live in is the spiritual one.
- C. We have more and greater blessings in the spiritual kingdom, than any earthly one.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.