

## Are You In Christ Jesus? (Ephesians 1:1-14)

The expression "In Christ Jesus" or its equivalent is used some twelve times in the first fourteen verses of the first chapter. The apostle Paul undoubtedly establishes and emphasizes a fundamental and essential principal, which must be recognized in order to understand and to achieve the desired goal and effect of the epistle. The letter to the Ephesians was written to explain and define the relationship that exists between the Savior and the saved. If one is to be saved, he must be IN CHRIST! To be in Christ is to be in His body, or church, (Eph 1:22,23; 2:16; 5:23-32).

When one is "In Christ" he is a "saint and faithful" - (Eph 1:1,2). In Christ we are separated from the world to the service of God, and that service is carried out in the spirit of loyalty to the instructions given by the one whom we serve, and dependability in fulfilling our obligations unto Him. If we are truly separated from the world, and faithful unto Him to whom we belong, truly grace and peace will be ours. When one is in Christ he is a partaker of "Every spiritual blessing" - (Eph. 1: 3). Many of these spiritual blessings are discussed in the following passages, but the principle is clearly set forth that UNLESS one is IN CHRIST, he cannot partake of ANY of them. One may lead a good moral, honest, and charitable life, and thus receive the physical blessings associated with such a lifestyle, but those things are not the cause or source of our spiritual blessings (Acts 10:1-6,22, 11:14).

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When one is in Christ he is "Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13). We can share in the wonderful blessings IN CHRIST experienced by Paul through believing the gospel which he preached, of which he states as being "The power of God unto salvation," (Rom. 1:16), and in this passage, - The word of truth, (John 17:17), the gospel (Romans 10:14-17), of your salvation. The gospel provides one with the facts to be believed; commands, which must be obeyed, and promises in which we are to hope. Our acceptance of the facts related to us in the gospel by faith, and our submission to the demands of the gospel by faith, assures us, and authenticates us as being recipients of the wonderful blessings God has promised to those "IN CHRIST JESUS." God will keep His word to us!

(author unknown)

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

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For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan

Bulletin 229 March 21, 2010

# Welcome

to the  
**Church of Christ**  
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:

The Holy Spirit's seal as a witness of redemption  
Ephesians 1:13-17

Tonight: Jesus is our righteousness



### Congregational Meeting Times:

#### Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

## Visitors

*The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.*

### Important dates to remember:

#### March:

Sun 28th - Elders and Deacons meeting at the building, 5:00 pm

#### Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun 21st - Group 1 meets after evening service

Fri 26th - Family night potluck at the Uptegrove's, 6:30pm



### Ladies House to House Fellowship

**Next meeting: Sunday, March 28th** at Linda Riemer's home following morning services. We will be choosing new material.

*Help choose a new lesson book! We will be selecting a book from five different books written by members of the Church of Christ. These books have come highly recommended and all deal with women issues. Please plan on being there to provide your input on which topics and books interest you most!*

### Classes

**Young Adults Class:** Fridays at Caleb's home. See Caleb for details.

**"Gathering" meeting:** meets 3/14 at 5pm

### Opportunity for Benevolence

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul explained in chapter 2 verse 10 "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*" Later on, in Chapter 4, he was outlining how Christian's should act and behave. In verse 28, he gives direction to the saints, "*He who steals should steal no longer, but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that will have something to share with one who has need.*"

Most of you are aware that we recently buried the husband of Kim Bailey, (a new sister in Christ), and father of Clarissa, Bishop, Ashanti, Marshall, and Jennifer. Due to his extended illness for the past 4+ years, Mr. Bailey was unable to afford life insurance. And, due to the expense of a proper funeral and burial, the family has a real need for some help.

Unfortunately, most of you are also aware that the treasury has been suffering the past 2 years, and we cannot afford to offer much from there. If you have a desire to help, and can possibly afford it, please see Bill Riemer. Any checks may be made out to the church, with "Benevolence" written in the memo field, or any funds may be inserted in the small envelopes, labeled "Benevolence", for anonymous donations.

Bill Riemer

### Birthdays this week

Fae Fritzsche	March 24
Dazion Hunter	March 26