

In Him

The passage of Scripture we are about to read is a wild ride of ecstatic utterance. There is little else like it in the Bible. Paul takes off and never lands in this little letter.

Ephesians 1.1-14

Paul 10 times uses the phrase “in Him” referring to Christ

A couple of other times he uses the phrase “through Him” again meaning Christ

Things that are only “in Him:”

Saints – used to refer to those who are holy by virtue of their faith in Christ.

Only saints are in Christ, and only in Christ are there saints!

You can be a saint, and it doesn’t take years of posthumous examination and lying about your ability to perform miracles. In fact you can be a saint without ever performing a miracle at all! If you are in Christ, then you ARE a saint.

Blessings in the heavenly places-

Unless we are in Christ, we have no blessings waiting for us in heaven.

Even now, those in Christ stand in the presence of God IN HIM! Heb. 6.19-20

There Jesus makes intercession for those who are in him. 1 John 2.1

The chosen-

“Predestinated” made up of “pre” before, “destination” a place. God set out the boundaries of the location where the chosen would be. And that boundary is “in Christ.” It is the error that has been made concerning this passage that clouds the original meaning. Those who are “in Christ” are the chosen because they have come into that boundary that God chose, that is, His Son. And “through Him” we receive adoption as children to God.

Grace-

Frankly it is not clear whether the grace is what is freely bestowed upon us “in the Beloved,” or the adoption. Either way, however, it is the unmerited favor (grace) of God that has been so freely given to us “in the Beloved.”

Redemption-

Redemption here is defined in the next phrase as “the forgiveness of sins.” That is really what redemption is. It is the buying back of our souls from the debt to sin. We have “sold ourselves under sin” and have nothing with which to repurchase ourselves. God paid the redemption price by paying the debt of our sins “in Christ.”

Inheritance-

1 Peter 1.3-5

The Holy Spirit-

The “earnest” or pledge of our inheritance

All summed up “in Christ”

In the church, which is His body. Eph. 1.19-23

This relationship is like no other – EVER!

John 17.14-26

We do not walk “with” Christ, but IN HIM!

We do not “come” to church; we ARE THE CHURCH!

We do not “accept Him as our personal savior,” we ARE IN HIM!

And He is IN US!