

# IN THE HEAVENLIES

## Introduction

- 1) The phrase “*in the heavenly places*” is used five times in the book of Ephesians
  - a) Ephesians 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12 (KJV, NKJV, ESV, ASV, NASV “realms” NIV)
  - b) Literally translated it is “*in the heavenlies*” (“heavens” CSB)
- 2) It is a reference to that which is **spiritual** (origin, idea, relationship, realm, kingdom)
  - a) The spiritual realm of existence in contrast to the earthly and physical realm
  - b) Heavenly “things” (Jn. 3:12), “calling” (Heb. 3:1), “gift” (6:4), “Jerusalem” (12:22), “man” (1 Cor. 15:49), “kingdom” (2 Tim. 4:18)
- 3) It is a major challenge to keep our minds focused on the spiritual realm (“kingdom view”)
  - a) Satan wants us constantly dwelling on earthly perspectives and not the spiritual perspective that should guide our thoughts and actions (Phil. 3:17-20; Col. 3:1-3; Jas. 3:13-18)
- 4) Consider the important things we should be aware of “*in the heavenlies*”...

## I) Every Spiritual Blessing (1:3)

- A) We must be fully aware of the source of every blessing, physical and spiritual – God!
  - 1) ***Spiritual blessings***: gospel, blood of Jesus, forgiveness, church, brethren, hope, etc.
- B) All ***spiritual*** blessings are found in Christ *in the heavenlies* (origin, relationship)
  - 1) We must participate in a spiritual relationship with Christ
  - 2) We put on Christ in faith and obedience (Eph. 1:13; Gal. 3:26-27)
  - 3) If you want to enjoy every spiritual blessing, you must be *in Christ*

## II) Christ at the Right Hand of Father (1:20)

- A) Jesus was raised from the dead to sit at God’s right hand *in the heavenlies*
  - 1) Place of spiritual honor, glory, authority, and exaltation – provide all spiritual blessings!
- B) Jesus sits on a spiritual throne, not a physical, earthly one (Acts 2:30; Psa. 110:1-2)
  - 1) Our Lord rules over a spiritual kingdom, the church – we must submit to His authority

## III) Place Where We Sit Together (2:6)

- A) We were dead in sin, but are now raised to sit *in the heavenlies*
  - 1) Spiritual dwelling place for those who are alive in Jesus (fellowship, kingdom, body)
  - 2) Made us sit ***together*** – Jew and Gentile (no earthly divisions in Jesus and His kingdom)
- B) Result of God’s mercy, love, and grace in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:1-10)
  - 1) We enjoy spiritual fellowship together when we are saved by grace through faith

## IV) Wisdom of God Made Known to Principalities and Powers (3:10)

- A) God’s wisdom is made known to principalities and powers *in the heavenlies*
  - 1) These are those who have rule and authority in the spiritual realm – unseen spirit beings both good and bad who observe the evidence of God’s wisdom (Col. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:12)
- B) God’s wisdom is seen through the ***church*** – spiritual creation of those raised from sin
  - 1) There they observe God’s purpose, salvation, fellowship, protection, guidance, etc.

## V) Wrestling against Evil Principalities, Powers, Rulers, Wickedness (6:12)

- A) We wrestle against spiritual forces of evil *in the heavenlies* (cf. 2 Cor. 10:3-5)
  - 1) Need to know who our true enemy is – Satan and his forces (2 Cor. 10:3-5; 11:3)
  - 2) Christ helps us overcome these spiritual forces of evil (Col. 2:15; Rom. 8:38-39)
- B) Against this we ***wrestle*** – spiritual combat for control of our life – put on God’s armor!

## Conclusion

The ***heavenlies*** is the spiritual realm where we dwell with Jesus and in His blessings, while also wrestling against forces of evil. Let us understand who we are and the realm in which we dwell. Live each day as one who dwells “*in the heavenlies.*” Obey and rejoice in God today!