**In Christ, as location and means**

During the month of March, we will move along in this elective with the following schedule:

Mar No Subject

4 08 In Christ, position and condition

11 09 In Christ, position and possessions

**18 10 In Christ, as location and means**

25 11 In Christ, redeemed and forgiven, so as to be justified

As we have pointed out previously, the book of Ephesians tells us that the believer is ‘in Christ’, or ‘in Him’, ‘in the Beloved’, ‘in whom’, etc. at least 36 times, and the New Testament letters use ‘in Christ’ or related terms 164 times. As we examine ‘in Christ’ and related terms in Ephesians 1:3-14 we see that:

1. The location is literally, ‘in the heavenlies’ or implied, ‘in the heavenly places’ meaning the place where God dwells, and from which His angels work and are sent.
2. Further, the location in Ephesians 1:3 is also personal, ‘in Christ’.

But in Ephesians 1:3-14, we can also see that ‘in Christ’ and related expressions is how God the Father accomplishes the ‘having blessed us with every spiritual blessing’:

Ephesians 1:3-14 (slightly edited to make verse 3-14 one long sentence)

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**, 4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved** 7 **in Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us; in all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth, **in Him** 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** would be to the praise of His glory, 13 **in Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed **in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise, 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.

So from this we see that God the Father is one who is credited with accomplishing these many and massive spiritual blessings. This makes sense, because Jesus constantly claimed that He was sent by the Father, and did as the Father directed Him (John 5:23, 26, 37; 6:44, 57, etc.).

But as we read Ephesians 1:3-14, the passages that follow in Ephesians, and other letters written by Paul, we will see that God the Father accomplishes all that He does for the believer by placing each of us who believes ‘in Christ’. In Ephesians 1:3-14, placing each believer in the heavenlies ‘in Christ’ (which is God’s doing: 1 Corinthians 1:30) is precisely how God the Father:

* Has blessed each one of us in the heavenly places
* Chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
* Predestined us to adoption as sons, and to be to the praise of His glory
* Made it so that we have the redemption, the forgiveness of trespasses and sins (see also Colossians 1:14)
* Sealed us in Christ (see also 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30), etc.

Further, we see that the Father’s action, love, grace, kindness and care for us extends from:

* Eternity past, before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3,4). Our being ‘in Christ’ was in the mind of the Father from before the world was made.
* The reality, impact and truth of our blessings continues in the present (Ephesians 1:7, 13,14),
* The outcome of those blessings is reality on into the Millennial kingdom (Ephesians 1:9,10),
* The outcome of the blessings will most assuredly remain and have full effect on into eternity future (Ephesians 1:3,4: holy and blameless, and what is predestined, including Romans 8:28-30).

So we see that the New Testament letters, mostly those of the apostle Paul, state the facts of our position, possessions and predestination. These are spiritual facts credited to the Father, including the fact that we are ‘in Christ’. And these are not only credited to the Father, but they are accomplished though Christ, which is stated as ‘in Christ’. Being placed ‘in Christ’ is the means through which the Father accomplishes these things.