

## Appendix 11

### 33 Blessings in Christ

Did you know that 33 things happened to you at the moment you became a believer in Jesus Christ? Lewis Sperry Chafer, the first president of Dallas Theological Seminary, listed these benefits of salvation in his *Systematic Theology, Volume III* (pp. 234-266). These points, along with brief explanations, give the born-again Christian a better understanding of the work of grace accomplished in his life as well as a greater appreciation of his new life.

1. In the eternal plan of God, the believer is:
  - a. **Foreknown** - Acts 2.23; 1 Pet. 1.2, 20. God knew from all eternity every step in the entire program of the universe.
  - b. **Predestined** - Rom. 8.29-30. A believer's destiny has been appointed through foreknowledge to the unending realization of all God's riches of grace.
  - c. **Elected** - Rom. 8.38; Col. 3.12. He/she is chosen of God in the present age and will manifest the grace of God in future ages.
  - d. **Chosen** - Eph. 1.4. God has separated unto himself his elect who are both foreknown and predestined.
  - e. **Called** - 1 Thess. 6.24. God invites man to enjoy the benefits of his redemptive purposes. This term may include those whom God has selected for salvation, but who are still in their unregenerate state.
2. A believer has been **redeemed** - Rom. 3.24. The price required to set him/her free from sin has been paid.
3. A believer has been **reconciled** - 2 Cor. 6.18, 19; Rom. 5.10. He/she is both restored to fellowship by God and restored to fellowship with God.
4. A believer is related to God through **propitiation** - Rom. 3.24-26. He/she has been set free from judgment by God's satisfaction with his Son's death for sinners.
5. A believer has been **forgiven** all trespasses - Eph. 1.7. All his/her sins are taken care of - past, present, and future.
6. A believer is vitally **conjoined to Christ** for the judgment of the old man "unto a new walk" - Rom. 6.1-10. He/she is brought into a union with Christ.
7. A believer is "**free from the law**" - Rom. 7.2-6. He/she is both dead to its condemnation, and delivered from its jurisdiction.

8. A believer has been made a **child of God** - Gal. 3.26. He/she is born anew by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit into a relationship in which God the First Person becomes a legitimate Father and the saved one becomes a legitimate child with every right and title - an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ.
9. A believer has been **adopted as an adult child** into the Father's household - Rom. 8.15, 23.
10. A believer has been **made acceptable to God** by Jesus Christ - Eph. 1.6. He/she is made **righteous** (Rom. 3.22), **sanctified** (set apart) positionally (1 Cor. 1.30, 6.11); **perfected forever in his/her standing and position** (Heb. 10.14), and **made acceptable** in the Beloved (Col. 1.12).
11. A believer has been **justified** - Rom. 5.1. He/she has been declared righteous by God's decree.
12. A believer is **"made right"** - Eph. 2.13. A close relation is set up and exists between God and the believer.
13. A believer has been **delivered from the power of darkness** - Col. 1.13; 2.13. A Christian has been delivered from Satan and his evil spirits. Yet the disciple must continue to wage a warfare against these powers.
14. A believer has been **translated into the Kingdom of God** - Col. 1.13. The Christian has been transferred from Satan's kingdom to Christ's Kingdom.
15. A believer is **planted** on the Rock, Jesus Christ - 1 Cor. 3.9-15. Christ is the foundation on which the believer stands and on which he/she builds his/her Christian life.
16. A believer is a **gift from God to Jesus Christ** - John 17.6, 11, 12, 20. He/she is the Father's love gift to Jesus Christ.
17. A believer is **circumcised in Christ** - Col. 2.11. He/she has been delivered from the power of the old sin nature.
18. A believer has been made a **partaker of the Holy and Royal Priesthood** - 1 Pet. 2.5, 9. He/she is a priest because of his/her relation to Christ, the High Priest, and will reign on earth with Christ.
19. A believer is part of a **chosen generation, a holy nation and a peculiar people** - 1 Pet. 2.9. This is the company of believers in this age.
20. A believer is a **heavenly citizen** - Phil. 3.20. Therefore he/she is called a stranger as far as his/her life on earth is concerned (1 Pet. 2.13), and will enjoy his/her true home in heaven forever.

21. A believer is in ***the family and household of God*** - Eph. 2.1, 9. He/she is part of God's "family" which is composed only of true believers.
22. A believer is in ***the fellowship of the saints***. John 17.11, 21-23. He/she can be a part of the fellowship of believers with one another.
23. A believer is in ***a heavenly association*** - Col. 1.27; 3.1; 2 Cor. 6.1; Col. 1.24; John 14.12-14; Eph. 5.25-27; Titus 2.13. He/she is a partner with Christ now in life, position, service, suffering, prayer, betrothal as a bride to Christ, and expectation of the coming again of Christ.
24. A believer has ***access to God*** - Eph. 2.18. He/she has access to God's grace which enables him/her to grow spiritually, and he/she has unhindered approach to the Father (Heb. 4.16).
25. A believer is within ***the "much more" care of God*** - Rom. 5.8-10. He/she is an object of God's love (John 3.16), God's grace (Eph. 2.7-9), God's power (Eph. 1.19), God's faithfulness (Phil. 1.6), God's peace (Rom. 5.1), God's consolation (2 Thess. 2.16-17), and God's intercession (Rom. 8.26).
26. A believer is ***God's inheritance*** - Eph. 1.18. He/she is given to Christ as a gift from the Father.
27. A believer ***has the inheritance of God himself*** and all that God bestows - 1 Pet. 1.4.
28. A believer has ***light in the Lord*** - 2 Cor. 4.6. He/she not only has this light, but is commanded to walk in the light.
29. A believer is ***vitaly united to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*** - 1 Thess. 1.1; Eph. 4.6; Rom. 8.1; John 14.20; Rom. 8.9; 1 Cor. 2.12.
30. A believer is blessed with ***the earnest or firstfruits of the Spirit*** - Eph. 1.14; 8.23. He/she is born of the Spirit (John 3.6), and baptized by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12.13), which is a work of the Holy Spirit by which the believer is joined to Christ's body and comes to be "in Christ," and therefore is a partaker of all that Christ is. The disciple is also indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8.9), sealed by the Spirit (2 Cor. 1.22), making him/her eternally secure, and filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5.18) whose ministry releases his power and effectiveness in the heart in which he dwells.
31. A believer is ***glorified*** - Rom. 8.18. He/she will be a partaker of the infinite story of the Godhead.
32. A believer is ***complete in God*** - Col. 2.9, 10. He/she partakes of all that Christ is.
33. A believer ***possesses every spiritual blessing*** - Eph. 1.3. All the riches tabulated in the

other 32 points made before are to be included in this sweeping term, “all spiritual blessings.”

It would hardly be amiss to restate the truth that salvation is a work of God for man and not a work for God. It is what God’s love prompts him to do and not a mere act of pity which rescues creatures from their misery. To realize the satisfaction of his love, God has been willing to remove by an infinite sacrifice the otherwise insuperable hindrance which sin has imposed; he is, likewise, overcoming the wicked opposition to his grace which the fallen human will presents by inclining his elect ones to exercise saving faith in Christ. When the way is thus clear, God is free to do all that infinite love dictates. Nothing short of transformations which are infinite will satisfy infinite love. An inadequate record of these riches of grace which together represent the infinity of saving grace has been submitted; but it still remains true that “the half has never been told.” The student who is ambitious to be accurate in gospel preaching will not only observe but ever contend for the truth that all these riches are purely a work of God, and that to secure them the individual could do no more than to receive at the hand of God what he is free to give in and through Christ Jesus. Those who believe on Christ in the sense that they receive him (John 1.12) as their Savior enter instantly into all that divine love provides. These 33 positions and possessions are not bestowed in succession, but simultaneously. They do not require a period of time for their execution; but are wrought instantaneously. They measure the present difference which obtains between one who is saved and one who is not saved.

“Oh to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.”