In Christ

Paul mentions in his letter to Philemon that he thanks God for him mentioning him by name in his prayers. He was also thankful for what he heard about Philemon’s signature qualities of love and faith for not only the Lord Jesus Christ but also toward all the believers. Then Paul mentions his prayer request, his hope that Philemon’s open dialogue with others about his faith may energize those around him through the acknowledging of every good thing he has “*in Christ Jesus*.”

The phrase “*in Christ*” is mentioned at least 75 times in Paul's letters. When he says “*in Christ*” he often has in mind our *position* in Him just as when he writes to the Ephesians that we are blessed “with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places *in Christ”* or that He *“*made us sit together in heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 1:3, 2:6).

The list below, although not complete, gives us an idea of so many wonderful spiritual blessings we have as believers “*in Christ*:”

- We are “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is *in Christ Jesus*.” (Rom 3:24).

- There is now “no condemnation to them which are *in Christ Jesus*” (Rom 8:1).

- “The law of the Spirit of life *in Christ Jesus* hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2).

- Nothing can “separate us from the love of God, which is *in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Rom 8:39).

- We are “one body *in Christ*” (Rom 12:5; Gal 3:28).

- We can be both “babes *in Christ*” and “wise *in Christ*” (I Cor 3:1, 4:10).

- We have “hope *in Christ*.” (I Cor 15:19).

- “*In Christ* shall all be made alive” (I Cor 15:22).

- Love can be with us all *in Christ* (I Cor 16:24).

- God establishes us *in Christ*, causes us to triumph *in Christ*, and we are a new creature *in Christ* (II Cor 1:21, 2:14, 5:17; Gal 6:15).

- We have liberty *in Christ Jesus* (Gal 2:4, 5:1).

- We are His “workmanship created *in Christ Jesus* unto good works” (Eph 2:10)

- We, who are *in Christ Jesus*, “are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Eph 2:13).

- We are “fellowheirs,” and “partakers of his promise *in Christ*” (Eph 3:6).

- We have abundant rejoicing *in Jesus Christ* (Php 1:26, 3:3).

- *In Christ* we may have consolation, comfort of love, and fellowship of the Spirit (Php 2:1).

- We have a prize and “a high calling of God *in Christ Jesus*” (Php 3:14)

- Every man may be presented “perfect *in Christ Jesus*” (Col 1:28).

- The “grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is *in Christ Jesus*” (I Tim 1:14).

- We can have “great boldness in the faith which is *in Christ Jesus*” (I Tim 3:13).

- We have the “promise of life which is *in Christ Jesus*” (II Tim 1:1).

- God “hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us *in Christ Jesus* before the world began” (II Tim 1:9)

- We have faith, love, grace, and salvation with eternal glory *in Christ Jesus* (II Tim 1:13, 2:1, 2:10).

Finally, now that we turn back to the Philemon letter, we’re reminded of Paul’s prayer request, that Philemon would acknowledge every good thing that *is in him in Christ Jesus*. He means for Philemon to share with others all the many spiritual blessings we listed, which Philemon has in his position *in Christ* as a result of his salvation through faith in the blood of our Savior on the cross at Calvary.

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