

PLACES OF REFUGE (2)

By Keith Greer

Now, let us make a spiritual application to the refuge we can find “in Christ.” Remember, only in Christ can we find **EVERY** spiritual blessing that mankind can enjoy. {Ephesians 1:3}

All promises. “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” {2 Corinthians 1:20} We know that God cannot lie {Hebrews 6:18; Titus 2:1}. He will deliver on every promise He has made – good or bad.

New creature. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” {2 Corinthians 5:17} Anyone who obeys the gospel of Christ becomes a new creation. He puts off the old man and puts on the new {Colossians 3:5-10}.

Made alive. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” {1 Corinthians 15:22} All people, because of sin in their lives, were spiritually dead. Everyone sins {Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8}. And while we are in a sinful condition, we are dead to Christ {Ephesians 2:1}. When we go to Christ for refuge, we are made spiritually alive in Him.

Reconciliation. “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” {Ephesians 2:13-16} Sin had made us God’s enemies. The Law had divided the Jews and Gentiles. Christ’s death on the cross provided sinful men with an opportunity for reconciliation with God – we can be brought back to Him!

Salvation. “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” {2 Timothy 2:10} This is exactly why there is salvation in no other name than Christ’s {Acts 4:12}. He has provided for us the means by which we can be saved!

Not condemned. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” {Romans 8:1} Condemnation does not pass on to sinful men when they are “in Christ” and walking according to the Spirit following the Spirit’s instruction provided in His word!

Blessed in death. “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’” {Revelation 14:13} Death is not the end; it is a glorious beginning to the knowledge that we have been saved in Christ. How? By one’s obedient faith and God’s grace.

Every hope we have because of the promises made by God will one day become reality. God's children can take comfort in knowing the places of refuge we have in Christ are real and can bring us blessings in this life and in the one to come. Are you in a place of refuge? We see the same thing at the time of the Passover, "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning." {Exodus 12:22} There are places of refuge—for those who trust God and have faith in His promises! The only question we need to ponder now is have you taken advantage of the "places of refuge" God has provided for you? ***