

2010 1-3 The new year will be blessed Eph1v3-14

Wow! Wasn't that an amazing Rose Bowl. Ohio State fans could really bask in the glory of that win. What a blessing it was to have Terrel as quarter back. He thanked God for giving him the gifts to be the MVP of the game.

After such an amazing season it is too bad we have to wait until next year to see this quarter back and our very own Ohio State Buckeyes play again. New year bowl games are fun to watch when your team wins the game.

Don't you just love the season. There are certain seasons that are the favorites. It can be sports playoffs. It can be summer or spring or fall. Or maybe it is the Christmas season. Technically the Christmas season is still here until January 6th on Epiphany. But we wind down the season of Christmas many times around New years day.

I wish we could extend the season, but the truth is that it is over. Yes it was a wonderful season, but like many seasons we will need to take down our Christmas decorations, stop our Christmas parties, and stop singing those Christmas songs.

The acts of the season do stop. It is kind of a downer. Nothing exciting to do now except sit down or go crawl in a hole. It's cold going outside now. And it will be a while before winter is over. But on Christmas we have received a blessing. This blessing gives us so much to do.

We have so many new blessings that we have been given. It isn't necessarily about Christmas. It is about God. Every year we have so many opportunities, so much adventure, so much motivation.

I am afraid that in our day as what must have been true in Paul's day, so many Christians are not living out of the resources that are rightfully theirs through Jesus Christ.

Probably never heard of Hetty Green. She died in 1916 and left an estate with an estimated value of \$100 Million Dollars(not pesos and not 1960 but 1916).

Hetty regularly ate cold oatmeal because it cost too much to heat it.

Her son had his leg amputated because she took so long to get him adequate care because she was looking for a free clinic.

Hetty died in the midst of an argument over milk, she argued that skim was best because it was the cheapest.

She was wealthy but she lived like a PAUPER. She never enjoyed nor benefited from the riches that were hers.

I want you to see that nothing has been held back. God has, already, not gradually and not at some future date, but 'has', blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

Not some, and not to some lesser degree that will increase as we grow more spiritually mature.

He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

But God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has blessed us with EVERY spiritual blessing!

The brand new believer, from the moment he or she believes, is an equal sharer, not only with the oldest and wisest of saints, but he or she is an equal sharer with the saints who have gone before; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Luke, all of them.

Not only that, but he or she is an equal sharer with our Lord Jesus Christ!

Can you fathom that? No, of course you cannot. Neither can I. But God's word tells me that it's true.

The Father loves us with the same and equal love with which He loves His Son.

"And the glory which you have given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that You did send Me, and did love them, even as You did love Me." John 17:22,23

And the Father blesses us with every blessing available to Christ in glory:

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,..." Romans 8:16,17

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, IN CHRIST. Every spiritual blessing is IN CHRIST, and we are partakers of them with Him.

Solomon did not seek the blessings of this world, he sought the spiritual blessing of discernment.

God has blessed us with these spiritual blessings in Christ:

He chose us before the foundation of the world vs 4

He freely bestowed His grace on us vs 6

He has given us redemption through His blood vs 7

He has revealed His kind intention toward us by making known to us the mystery of His will vs 9

We have obtained an inheritance in Him that includes all spiritual blessings in Christ vs 11

We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise vs 13

This One who had raised him up from the dusty Damascus road and commissioned him for ministry; Who led him into the wilderness and personally taught him for three years; Who guided him on his missionary journeys and kept him through testings and trials and perils and dangers and hunger and exhaustion and exposure to the elements; Who raised him to

life after being stoned and dragged from Lystra and deposited like trash alongside the roadway; Who delivered him from the fangs of wild beasts in Ephesus...

... ..to him, this Christ was truly all and all.

Christians, none of us has been through worse hardships than Paul went through, and certainly not for the sake of ministry.

I am aware of, and I would never minimize the suffering and the troubles that most of us have experienced in our years, and I am happy to be able to point the one who hurts to the great Physician for healing, to the Comforter for counsel, to the Champion of our faith for deliverance.

But I will also pray that the Lord open the eyes of your understanding, and give you grace, that you may, no matter how deep the wounds, no matter how dark the pit, no matter how insurmountable the hedge of circumstances around you may seem, be able to shout with the Apostle Paul,

“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 Jesus...”

This is a present and everlasting truth for you to contemplate and cling to throughout the remainder of your days on this earth, Believer; In Christ, you have, been blessed, with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

You are rich, INFINITELY AND ETERNALLY RICH, beyond man's wildest imaginings.....IN CHRIST!

A second person I heard about lived on the West Coast of America living in poverty until one day he found out that he was the only living heir to a British Nobleman. What do you think this guy did when he found out? Went to the clothing store and bought the best suit he could find, bought a 1st class ticket to London and returned to England in style!

HE BELIEVED WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD WAS TRUE AND HE BEGAN TO ACT UPON IT!!!

I hope this story best describes your spiritual life, NOW in this new year.