THE BLESSING OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH
Eph. 1:3-6

A. **Being able to praise God.** Vs. 3
1. "Blessed" means to praise, to laud, to commend, to compliment.
2. Our English word "encomium" is a perfect synonym meaning warm or high praise.

B. **The fact that all spiritual blessings are in Christ.** Vs. 3
1. One might ask, "What is out of Christ?"
a. Atheism (secular humanism), infidelity, religious error, modernism, unrighteousness in every form, even morality short of Christianity.
b. These promise nothing after death.
c. Therefore, I John 2:15,16; and II Cor. 6:17,18

2. In contrast to what the world offers, notice the spiritual blessings in Christ:
a. Forgiveness. Eph. 1:7; Gal 3:26,27.
b. Being added to the church. Acts 2:47; II Cor. 12:27.
c. Times of refreshing. Acts 3:19
d. Reconciliation. Eph. 2:16
e. Grace. II Tim. 2:1; Tit. 2:11,12
f. His presence. Mat. 28:18-20
g. The privilege of Christ as an advocate. I John 2:1
h. Completeness. Col. 2:10
i. The promise of life. I Tim. 4:8

C. **Being chosen** (the pre-determined are in him). (v.4)
1. The question is not does God choose, but where?
2. Notice the text says, "chosen us in him."
3. If one claims God chooses the individuals who are saved and lost, then this takes away the free moral agency of man, and violates many passages:
a. II Pet. 3:9 "all should come to repentance."
b. Acts 10:34,34 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."
c. Rev. 22:17 "Whosoever will...come"
4. The fact is that the Lord chooses the faithful and obedient in him, but the free moral agency of man allows him to choose whether he enters Christ, or stays out of him.

D. **The kind of life lived before him.**
1. It is to be a holy life (holy, saint, sanctify, etc., are all related terms).
2. Compare Christ. I Pet. 2:20,21
3. We have the advantage of Christ not only having told us, but having shown us what to do.
4. What all does this living before him involve?
a. In Worship?

b. In every day activities?
c. In our private lives and thoughts?