

## **Are You In or Out?**

### ***Selected Passages in Romans***

***Thought for the Day:*** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ.**" (Ephesians 1:3 *NIV*)

In Genesis 6 and 7 we read how Noah built an ark in faith and obedience to God for the salvation of his family. For 120 years Noah prepared the ark, preached righteousness to the people and called them to repent of their sins and turn to the Lord (2 Peter 3:9). But in spite of all his efforts to warn the people, not one person repented and turned to the Lord. When the flood waters of God's judgment came upon the people, it was too late—the door of the ark had been shut and sealed and no one could open it, either from within or without. Either you were in the ark and saved, or outside the ark and lost. The application for us today is that we are either inside of Jesus Christ and saved, or outside of Christ and lost.

#### **Matthew 24:36-39**

"36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul has quite a lot to say about being in Christ and the spiritual blessings that God has for those who are in Christ:

#### **Romans 3:21-24**

- When we put our faith in Jesus Christ to be our Savior from sin, we are purchased and set free from the marketplace of sin. His death on the cross is the price that was paid in order that we might be set free.
- "In Old Testament times, a person's debts could result in his being sold as a slave. The next of kin could redeem him (buy his freedom). Christ purchased our freedom, and the price was his own life. Christ has provided all that we need to stand in God's presence as though we have never done wrong. What he did for us becomes our own when we put our faith in him." (*Life Application Bible Commentary*)

#### **Romans 6:11**

- Outside of Jesus Christ, we are spiritually dead in our sins and unresponsive to God. (e.g., Ephesians 2:1)
- But in Christ, we are made alive to God and we are able to have a personal relationship with Him. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

#### **Romans 6:22-23**

- In Christ, we receive God's gift of eternal life—not just eternity in heaven—but a new *quality* of life, the abundant life that Jesus promised His followers in John 10:10.

### **Romans 8:1**

- The opposite of condemnation is justification.
- In Christ, we are justified and declared “Not guilty!” by God. (John 3:16-18)
- John 5:24 – “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

### **Romans 8:2**

- In Christ, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live free of the indwelling power of our sinful nature as we learn to live in submission to and dependence on Him.

### **Romans 8:38-39**

- In Christ, we are the objects of God’s unfailing love.
- Nothing in all of creation can take us away from God’s love or hinder His purposes for us.

### **Romans 12:3-8**

- In Christ, we belong, we matter, we have meaning, significance and purpose.
- In Christ, we are members of the body of Christ and each of us has been specially gifted by the Holy Spirit and the grace of God to minister to the needs of the other members of the body.

### **Romans 15:17-19**

- In Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish the ministry that God has entrusted to us.

### **Romans 16:3, 9**

- In Christ, we are partners and co-laborers together with all who love and serve the Lord.
- We are part of a team that is working together, in partnership with God, to accomplish the greatest mission in the history of the world—the eternal salvation of souls!

Are you in or out? Are you in Christ, or outside of Christ? Just like Noah and the people of his day, to be in Christ is to be saved; to be outside of Christ is to be lost. And in Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.