

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Wake Up To The Heavenly Places

(Jerry Fite)

The unseen, hidden from the physical eye, tends to go unnoticed in our daily lives. But there is an unseen realm Paul calls the “heavenly places” which should catch our attention as we walk by faith, and not by sight. By faith we are able to see into the heavenly places and know who and what occupies this hidden, but real realm.

JESUS AND HIS THRONE

Our resurrected Lord sits on His throne in the heavenly places. Paul wants “*the eyes of your heart enlightened*”, that ye may know not only the hope of your calling, but also the great power of God available to us (*Ephesians 1:18*). Such great power was manifested when God raised Jesus “*from the dead and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places*” (*Ephesians 1:20*). Here, the heavenly places include Heaven itself, for that is where the Father dwells (*Matthew 6:9*). Jesus Christ is sitting and ruling with all authority. When we begin to doubt and wonder whether or not anyone really is in control of things, be-

hold the authoritative power manifested in a resurrected Lord who reigns as King in the heavenly places.

THE CHRISTIAN SITS

When one obeys the Gospel in baptism, he or she is raised with Christ and made “*to sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ*” (*Ephesians 2:6, cf. Colossians 2:12*). Through the Gospel message and obedience of faith, one is made alive spiritually, and is “*in Christ*” (*Galatians 3:26-27*). While Jesus dwells in Heaven, and we are made alive on earth, we are connected spiritually with our resurrected Lord in the heavenly places. Connected with His authority while made alive by His grace, we reign in life through Him (*Romans 5:17*).

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Paul praises God “*who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*” (*Ephesians 1:3*). Being part of God’s eternal purpose; forgiven of all our trespasses and sins; made a heritage to God’s glory and sealed with the

Holy Spirit of promise are blessings originating in the heavenly places with God as He foreordained redemption in Christ (*Ephesians 1:4-14*).

SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS

The spiritual realm of the heavenly places has also a dark side. Paul writes, “*For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (*Ephesians 6:12*). A powerful spiritual force is at work. We must arm ourselves with God’s word and prayer (*Ephesians 6:13-18*), for pistols and shotguns will not win the battle for our souls. We are not fighting flesh and blood, but the Devil and his spiritual hosts who operate in the heavenly places.

Wake up to the reality of the heavenly places, The God who blesses, the Christ who rules, the Christian who sits, and the enemy who destroys abide in this realm.