INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY
ISA 61:1
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Ministering to prisoners for over 50 years



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

November, 2026

Dear Friends of IPM,

During this Thanksgiving season, it's good to have thankful hearts for all of the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ. Ricky T., from a North Carolina prison, recently wrote: "God has blessed me so much. I thank Him constantly."

The Apostle Paul offered grateful praise to the Lord for the astounding spiritual riches that are ours in Jesus Christ. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* (Ephesians 1:3). Paul's thanksgiving was for what the Father has already given to every believer. Every spiritual blessing—think of it! This truth is staggering in its implications. Every grace resource that heaven has to offer is already ours here on earth. This does not mean that we are fully aware of all that has been given to us. Certainly, it does not mean that we are experiencing all of these blessings. Yet, it does mean that they are all ours to draw upon for fullness of life here on earth!

The reason these rich blessings are ours is that they all reside in Jesus. In Christ is forgiveness, righteousness, and wisdom. Love, joy, and peace are found in Him. In Christ dwells victory, discernment, and courage. Moreover, compassion, strength, and perseverance are part of who He is. All this and far more is found in Christ. *"For it pleased the Father that in him (Jesus) should all fullness dwell"* (Colossians 1:19). Now, we dwell in the place ("in Christ") where all of this richness resides. All these spiritual resources of the kingdom of heaven are now ours "in

(over please)

Christ." *"And of his fullness have we all received"* (John 1:16). In Christ we find all we need for an abundant walk.

In order to draw upon these heavenly provisions, we need the Lord to enlighten our understanding concerning what is ours in Christ. *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints"* (Ephesians 1:18). As the Holy Spirit uses the word of God to reveal these matters to us, our faith develops so we might access these resources by faith. As we get to know the Lord more and more each day, the more we can trust in Him and draw from Him the unlimited treasures of His grace.

Like Ricky, in a North Carolina prison, may we have grateful hearts unto the Lord for all of the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ. We thank the Lord for all who partner with us as we share God's love and truth with needy souls behind bars.

With Thankful Hearts unto the Lord,

Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM team)

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is God's Prison Gang by Chaplain Ray.



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"
- Ephesians 1:3