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EPHESIANS :

*And faithful in Christ Jesus.*—These were not a class among the believers, but as distinguished from the unbelieving world. If, therefore, you have put your faith in the Lord Jesus, all that is in this epistle, is addressed to you as a saint, and faithful one in Christ Jesus.

2. THE PORTION OF THE SAINTS (v. 3).

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

The portion of the saints of this dispensation consists of spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in distinction from temporal blessings in earthly places. Israel's portion under the law was the latter. Thus in Deut. 28 : 3-5 we read "Blessed shalt thou be in the city and blessed shalt thou be in the field ; blessed shalt thou be in the fruit of thy body and in the fruit of thy ground, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and increase of thy kine : blessed shalt thou be in thy basket and in thy store."

Spiritual blessings do not appeal to the natural man. He very much prefers the temporal, which to him seem so much more tangible and practical. He can understand real estate, and city blocks, and farms and cattle and crops and stocks and bank accounts ; but spiritual blessings are vague, and heavenly places are some unknown region. They will do to talk and sing about on Sunday, but for him he says : "Give us temporal blessings in earthly places."

But these are so fleeting ; no sooner are they well secured than life is over, and we leave them ; and death is dreaded as the greatest horror, because it snatches one away from the only blessings he knows anything of, and the more of these blessings he has secured, the greater is the calamity of death.