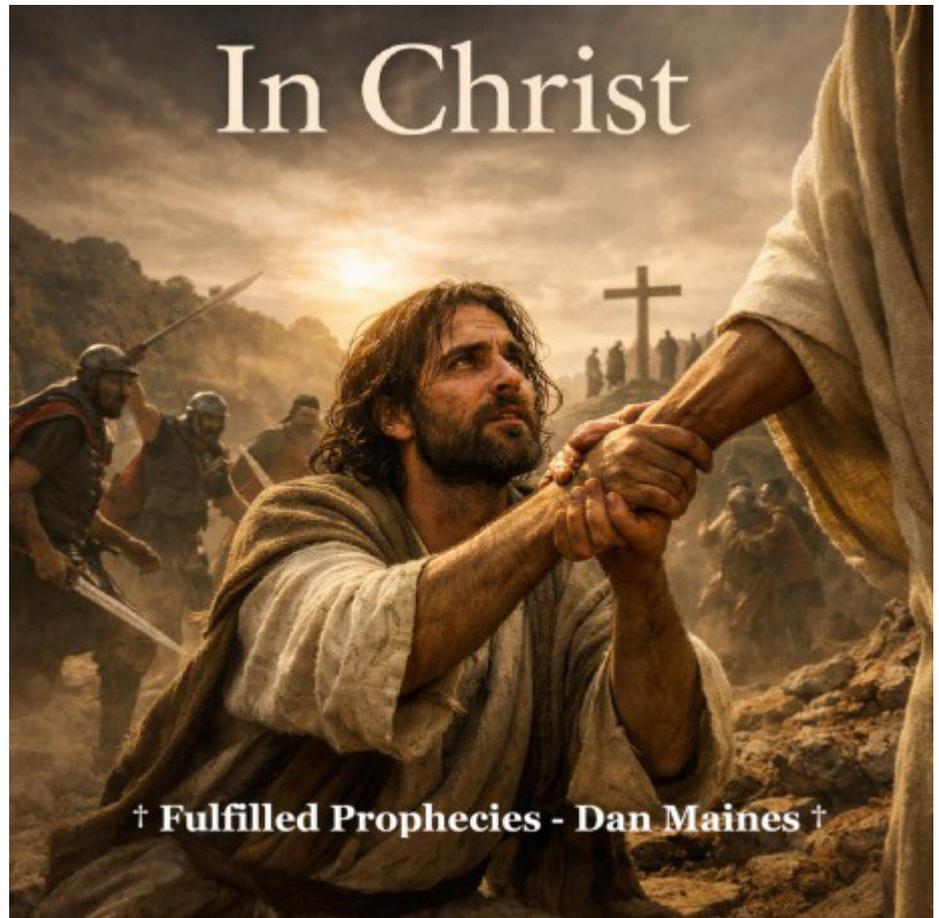


Fulfilled Prophecies

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In Christ



By Dan Maines

In Christ

Introduction

† The central truth of the gospel is not religious performance, church attendance, or moral improvement. The central truth is being IN Christ. Scripture repeatedly teaches that salvation is located in a person, not in a system.

† The New Testament doesn't describe salvation as something fragile that believers constantly lose and regain. Instead, it describes a permanent union with Christ. If someone is truly IN Christ, they are a new creation and nothing can separate them

from Him.

† At the same time, the Bible clearly distinguishes between salvation, judgment, and rewards. These are not the same things. Many passages about judgment deal with accountability and reward, not with the loss of salvation.

† Understanding the difference between being IN Christ and merely experiencing the blessings around Christ is critical to understanding passages that are often misunderstood.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

† Paul describes a completed reality. The person who is in Christ is already a new creation.

† The phrase old things have passed away shows the complete change that happens when someone is united with Christ. Their former standing under sin and condemnation is gone.

† This verse explains identity, not effort. Salvation is not about trying to become new, it is about being made new through Christ.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Paul lists every possible category of power and authority. His point is simple, nothing in creation has the power to break the believer's union with Christ.

† The phrase things present nor things to come removes fear about the future. Nothing that will ever happen can separate believers from the love of God.

† The security of the believer rests in God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one

will snatch them out of my hand.

† Jesus defines the life He gives as eternal life. Eternal means without end, not temporary life that can later disappear.

† Christ also says they will never perish. This is a direct promise from the Lord Himself about the security of those who belong to Him.

† The believer's security rests in Christ's authority and power. If no one can snatch them from His hand, salvation is protected by the Son of God.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

† Paul explains that those who believe the gospel are sealed with the Holy Spirit. A seal represents ownership, authority, and protection.

† In the ancient world a seal marked something as belonging to its owner. God places His seal on those who are in Christ.

† This shows salvation is secured by God's Spirit, not by human effort.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

† John explains that eternal life is located in the Son. Salvation is not found in human effort but in being united with Christ.

† The contrast is clear. Whoever has the Son has life. Whoever does not have the Son does not have life. The issue is union with Christ.

† John says believers can know that they have eternal life. The gospel produces certainty because life is secured in the Son of

God.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

† Peter explains that believers have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. This means salvation is not something that decays or disappears.

† He also says believers are being guarded by God's power. The security of salvation rests on God's power, not human strength.

† This confirms what the other passages teach. Those who are truly in Christ are protected and preserved by God Himself.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,
and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

† This passage describes people who experienced the blessings surrounding the gospel but never actually entered into Christ.

† The text says they were enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift. Tasting something is not the same as possessing it.

† These individuals witnessed the power of the coming age and the work of the Holy Spirit during the first century, yet they ultimately rejected Christ.

† The warning shows the seriousness of rejecting Christ after clearly seeing the truth about Him.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

† This passage clearly distinguishes between salvation and rewards. A believer may lose reward, yet he himself will be saved.

† Paul shows that judgment for believers concerns the quality of their works, not the security of their salvation.

† This proves salvation, judgment, and rewards are not the same thing. Salvation is secured in Christ, while rewards are based on works.

Historical References

† Justin Martyr explained that believers receive new life through Christ and become new creations through Him, emphasizing the permanence of the life given by Christ.

† Irenaeus taught that life comes through union with the Son of God and that those who receive Him receive life that cannot be taken away.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that salvation comes through participation in Christ Himself and not merely through knowledge about Him.

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians believed eternal life was secured through the completed work of Christ and the new life He gives to believers.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Being IN Christ means our identity is no longer defined by our past sins or failures. In Christ we stand as new creations.

† Our confidence doesn't come from our performance. It comes from the finished work of Jesus Christ.

† Salvation, judgment, and rewards are not the same. A believer may be evaluated for works, yet his salvation remains secure in Christ.

† The most important question for every person is whether they are truly IN Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q Does eternal life mean it cannot be lost?

A Yes. John 10:28 says Jesus gives eternal life and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of His hand.

Q What does it mean to be in Christ?

A 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation and the old things have passed away.

Q Does Hebrews 6:4-6 teach that a saved person can lose salvation?

A No. Hebrews 6:4-6 describes people who experienced the blessings surrounding the gospel but ultimately rejected Christ rather than truly belonging to Him.

Q What determines whether someone is truly in Christ?

A Scripture shows that those who believe the gospel and are united with Christ become new creations. 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation and the old things have passed away.

Q Can anything in creation separate a believer from God's love?

A No. Romans 8:38-39 says neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q How do believers know they possess eternal life?

A 1 John 5:11-13 explains that God has given eternal life and this life is in His Son, and those who believe in the name of the Son of God may know that they have eternal life.

Q If a believer loses rewards, are they still saved?

A Yes. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 teaches that if someone's work is burned up he will suffer loss, yet he himself will be saved.

Q What protects believers in their salvation?

A 1 Peter 1:3-5 explains that believers have an inheritance that is imperishable and are guarded by God's power through faith.

Q What is the difference between experiencing the gospel and actually being in Christ?

A Hebrews 6:4-6 describes people who experienced the blessings around the gospel and witnessed its power but ultimately rejected Christ rather than truly belonging to Him.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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† 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:38-39, John 10:28, Ephesians 1:13, 1 John 5:11-13, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Hebrews 6:4-6, 1

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† Justin Martyr, First Apology; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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