

Dear All,

The Study Service this week is a discussion on **“in Christ”**, Paul’s oft repeated phrase, used 12 times in Ephesians 1 to speak about **all God has already done & accomplished for us “in Christ”**. For Paul, everything we need, God has done for us in Christ, & all he gives us, he gives us **“in Christ”**.

It is on this basis that Paul then begins, in chapters 2 into 4 to speak of **our growth “into Christ”**, of how Christ through his word and Spirit uses his gifts to the church to nurture it as his body in its growing up into him as its head.

Several questions arise:

1. What is the precise meaning of “in Christ”? What does the “in” mean? Does it mean “within” and not outside Christ?
2. What is the relation between Paul’s ‘what has happened for us “in Christ”’ & the subsequent movement of ‘us “in Christ”’, ‘growing up “into him”’ as our head, in love & knowledge?
3. What is the relation between “in Christ”, “Christ in us” and “us in Christ”?

The answer to **‘What does “in Christ” mean?’** determines the answer to the other questions and such questions open up that about **the nature of the person of Christ**.

Preparatory reading: Ephesians 1-4, especially chapter 1 7-8.30 by Zoom meet (details on request)

Best wishes - Bob