

A.R.M.

Inheritance

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional

Ephesians Ch 1, v 11

In Him also we have obtained an INHERITANCE, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will


Through believing in Jesus, we have obtained an inheritance from our loving Father. This is the very inheritance of Jesus Himself, which He rightly earns by His perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection. Part of this inheritance is that we are predestined for a blessed purpose, which is all made possible by the work of Jesus Christ. When we place our trust in Christ and seek refuge in Him, we receive His inheritance as co-heirs with Him because we're positioned in Him through our faith. The inheritance of Christ becomes our own because He graciously extends it to us.

Ephesians Ch 1, v 14


who is the guarantee of our INHERITANCE until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

God has guaranteed our inheritance in Christ, by giving us the down payment of His Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is a witness to our future inheritance in the new creation. This eternal inheritance includes the full realization of our adoption when we are resurrected to new, glorified bodies like Jesus.

Connecting the Verses



God predestines us to an eternal inheritance because we are positioned in Christ through faith. Because our inheritance fully depends on Jesus and His perfect work, we can look at Him as an example of what we have waiting for us. When you look at Jesus, you're looking at your future inheritance. Our inheritance includes new resurrected bodies because we are positioned in Jesus, who has been resurrected and glorified.




Ephesians Ch 1, v 18


the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His INHERITANCE in the saints

Throughout the Bible, God refers to Israel as His treasured possession. In other words, Israel is God's chosen inheritance. This isn't because Israel was impressive, but because God is gracious. As the people of God, we are God's inheritance. We are His valued, treasured possession, whom He dearly loves. And, this is not because we are impressive, but again, because He is gracious.

Connecting the Verses



Part of our inheritance as children of God is that we are deeply loved and valued by our gracious Father. One of the main aspects of our future inheritance is the fact that we get to enjoy God as His people for eternity because He chooses to treasure us first. Since Christ is the ultimate beloved of the Father, He extends that same status to us through our faith. We are God's chosen and valued treasure.




Ephesians Ch 5, v 5

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any INHERITANCE in the kingdom of Christ and God.

The Kingdom of God is not something you can earn or achieve on your own. The Kingdom of God is something to be inherited, which means only the rightful owner of that Kingdom can grant access. This is why the Kingdom is only given to the children of God. If someone is under the penalty of sin, and a child of the devil, they are not children of God.


If someone is still in the darkness of sin and rebellion, they are not God's children. And, if sin separates them from God, they are in death, not life. This is why they don't inherit the Kingdom of God: they're enslaved to sin and under the penalty of death. But, we are not enslaved to sin and darkness anymore. We are children of God, who get to share in the Kingdom of our Father as part of our inheritance.

Connecting the Verses



The inheritance of Christ is only for those who have been spiritually reborn to be children of God through faith.

Apart from faith in Christ, there is no entry into God's Kingdom. God has chosen to share His Kingdom with His children as their inheritance. The Kingdom of Heaven is attached to Christ. When we take refuge in Jesus through faith, we are given access to the Kingdom of God. This is what God has predestined for His children.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 11-14

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Connecting Ephesians 1:11-14

A horizontal blue brushstroke with a textured, splattered appearance.

God predestines a category of people for a specific purpose. There are those who believe in Jesus and those who will not. For those who believe, God has sovereignly decided to give them access to the inheritance of His perfect Son Jesus. In Christ, we are given sonship through adoption. God adopts us into His family and declares us to be His beloved children. We are given a new status and identity in Christ, which is the very identity of Jesus, Himself. As children of God, we are given access to the inheritance of Jesus as well. God makes us co-heirs with Christ so that we gain everything He has accomplished and attained through His perfect life, death, and resurrection. The main focus of this inheritance is eternal life, which is to have a relationship with the living God. This friendship with God is the main treasure that we are given in Christ as part of our inheritance.

Connecting Ephesians 1:11-14 (*Cont.*)

And, this inheritance has our name on it, because of our faith in Jesus, but we have not yet fully experienced everything God has for us. God has much more waiting for us in our future. He promises to raise us from the dead, to give us new, glorified bodies, and to make us co-rulers with Jesus in the new creation. And, when we access the fullness of our inheritance in the future, it will be to the praise of God's glory. In other words, God is glorified when His children enjoy the fullness of their inheritance in Christ.

This full inheritance becomes ours, the moment we believe in the gospel message of salvation. And, not only does God write our name on the inheritance of Christ, but He guarantees that inheritance by filling us with the presence of His Spirit. The Spirit of God testifies to our future inheritance and gives us assurance as children of God. The very second we believe in Christ, God gives us His Spirit as the down payment for what else is to come. Until we acquire the full measure of our inheritance, the Spirit of God seals us for the day of redemption and gives us confidence that we are children of God. And, if we're children of God, then we can be certain, that one day, we will be resurrected with Christ and glorified as part of our inheritance in Him.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 15-21

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Connecting Ephesians 1:15-21



The Ephesian church has a reputation for love and faith, and Paul has heard the wonderful testimony of this church community. Faith and love are the appropriate response to the wonderful inheritance we have in Christ. When you understand all that God has given you through your faith in His Son, it would make sense that you would respond in love and faith that's rooted in thankfulness. In other words, one of the main things that drive love and faith is an understanding and appreciation of our beautiful inheritance in Christ.

Part of our inheritance is the love of God. Not only does this include being loved by God, but it also includes the spiritual ability to love God and people who are made in His image. Love is the overflow of our eternal inheritance. The Spirit of God gives us such assurance and certainty about our inheritance that we can go and live in love for God and people. There's security attached to our inheritance in Jesus, and the Spirit of God plays a part in guaranteeing that we are co-heirs with Christ. This kind of security promotes a life of faith and love for God and others.

Connecting Ephesians 1:15-21 (*Cont.*)



Paul responds to the love and faith of the Ephesian church with a prayer of thankfulness. He prays that the church would know Christ in order to have the spirit of wisdom and understanding. Paul's desire is for the church to know who Jesus is, and to have a deep understanding of their beautiful inheritance. This inheritance includes an eternal hope and immeasurable power that God works in our lives by His grace.

As children of God, we now have the right to lasting hope and the immeasurable power of God working in our lives. This is why we're born again through the Holy Spirit. We're born again to a living hope, connected to God's unspeakable power. Hope and power are part of our inheritance. Christ has given us the right to these things through our faith in His finished work on the cross.

And, when we better know Jesus, we'll have a greater understanding of all the treasures we have in Him. This is why Paul prays that God would give His people greater knowledge of Himself. In other words, when we see Jesus clearer, we see our inheritance more clearly. God is our inheritance. Our inheritance is centered around our relationship with God. He is our greatest treasure and everything else is extra.



Connecting Ephesians 1:15-21 (*Cont.*)



And, the Spirit of God not only gives us confidence about our inheritance, but He helps us to see all that we have in Christ as part of our inheritance. Another thing Paul desires the church to know is God's inheritance in the saints. This is also a part of our inheritance, but God is doing the inheriting here. God is inheriting His people here in this passage.

God chooses to value us as His treasured possession. He calls us His inheritance, which shows us His tremendous love for us. Part of our inheritance in Christ includes being accepted, loved, and treasured by the God of the universe as His people. God doesn't have natural feelings about us.

He calls us His beloved. This divine love of God fundamentally changes our identity forevermore. We are now those who are loved and wanted by God because Christ has given us His very status and sonship.

Ephesians Chapter 5, v. 3-6

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Connecting Ephesians 5:3-6



There is a kind of life that is appropriate for children of God, which implies that there is a kind of life that is not appropriate. A life that is full of sin, evil, and darkness, is NOT appropriate for children of God. Paul lists specific sins in this passage, these are certain sins that were prevalent in the Ephesian culture. If we are children of God who have obtained an inheritance in Christ, you would expect a life of thankfulness and love towards God, rather than a life of sin and rebellion.

Rebellious children aren't thankful children. And, Paul wants us to know that you will not inherit the Kingdom of God if you are sexually immoral, impure, or a covetous idolater. Paul isn't speaking of born-again children of God who struggle with sin and fight against the flesh daily. He is speaking of those who are given over to their sin and are defined by their sin. In other words, Paul is speaking of unbelievers who reject the gospel and continue in a life of sin.

Connecting Ephesians 5:3-6 (*Cont.*)

Children of God aren't defined by their sin like unbelievers, because a believer's identity is based on the work of Christ; not their own. In other words, unbelievers have an identity and a standing before God that is based on their sin. By definition, they are sinners. In contrast, we, by definition, are children of God, because we are granted the sonship of Jesus in order to become children of God. In the sight of God, it is the work of Jesus that defines us and determines our identity forevermore.

This is part of our blessed inheritance. We are granted a brand new identity in Christ. But, those who reject the gospel, and remain in their sin, are separated from the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven is something to inherit by birthright. It cannot be obtained or achieved any other way. We can only enter into the Kingdom of Heaven through the person and work of Jesus. Anyone who isn't born again through their faith in Jesus has no share in the Kingdom of God. Unbelievers don't have a right to God's Kingdom because they aren't co-heirs with Christ. Jesus alone can extend to us His inheritance, which includes entrance into His eternal Kingdom.

