

OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST

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It is very important to go over how deep and far reaching our inheritance in Christ really means and know all that has been provided for us. Anyone who may have a bank account will go over their checkbook occasionally to be sure just how much free money there may be. Big department stores, or grocery stores will go over their entire stock at least once a year to see just how much capital they may have and what they have made that year.

We as Christians, sometimes are not as practical as these businessmen. Jesus spoke in the parable of the unjust steward, in the 16th chapter of Luke that, “*The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*”

The children of this world go over their business accounts ever-so-carefully to know exactly what they have and what they can take advantage of. We should, just as carefully, go back and take account of our stock, our inheritance in Christ as carefully as they do. Unless we take account of our inheritance, and know all that has been provided for us, how can we enjoy our inheritance and take full advantage of it?

1 Peter 1:3-4, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*”

This tells us that we have fallen heir to something, an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled. An inheritance is something that is left to us, it belongs to us.

In the world, if one would have a rich relative to make out a will to leave us a portion of his money, as long as he was living that money would be of no use to us. But if they passed away, and had us mentioned in his will, after it would go through the courts and all the legal requirements, it would be placed in the bank with our name on it. Then we could say, “now it is mine, I can finally enjoy my inheritance.”

We could then have that sense of ownership, a confidence that this is mine and I can spend it or leave it in the bank, I would be absolute master of that money.

May God help us to grasp this same sense of ownership of this divine inheritance in Christ Jesus. When we grasp the fact that we are the owners of this inheritance and it is ours to do with as we please, we will have that confidence to use it as we like.

The reason we receive so little of our inheritance at times, is because we never received that sense of ownership, we never realized that we are the honest owners, and we cannot take full advantage of it until we realize this fact. When God states in His Word that we have an inheritance, He means that there is something left to us, it has had all the legal endorsements and is deposited in our name.

What kind of an inheritance is it? “Incorruptible and undefiled”—It is unchanging and pure, not decayed, marred, or mildewed, just as fresh as the day it was placed in the bank—all crisp new notes—not soiled, nothing defiled about it, and best of all it fadeth not away, it will never disappear, we can never use it all up. Satan cannot steal a fraction of it because it is reserved in heaven for us. Remember where our inheritance is, always in Heaven, not down here on earth.

Some think their spiritual inheritance is to be obtained through men, and they miserably fail. Some think their physical inheritance is deposited down here on earth, through the wisdom of the medical profession, and they also fail. Others think their financial inheritance is down here also, and you find them getting worn out, working long hours, trying to get something that has already been inherited. Their salary is only a drop in the bucket compared to what God has for them to enjoy.

In the ninth chapter of Hebrews, we find that this will has been made; Jesus made the will, and He has died, and now the will is in full force.

Hebrews 9:16-17, “*For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*”

This tells us that this will is in full force. It has all been turned over to us, for us to start taking full advantage of it.

In Joshua 1:3-6, God blessed Israel and gave them an inheritance, something they had not bought nor earned; He simply made them a present of it, all because of His love toward them, and because of His promise to Abraham.

God told them, “*Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.*”

Notice one thing. This was the same as an earthly inheritance; only the place they claimed was theirs; only the land they would put their feet on and said, “This is ours, this is our inheritance” that would be theirs.

God said the whole land was theirs, but only that which they appropriated, or would claim and use as their own, would become theirs in reality. That would be the same as in an earthly inheritance. If someone were to leave one a thousand dollars and they would never claim it and use it as their own, it would be of no value to them.

It is the same with our heavenly inheritance; all that we would claim and use as our own—it is ours for the taking. Revelation 22:17, “*And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*”

Some may think when going through a battle with the devil, “When God wants me to be healed, He will do it in His time, so I will wait patiently.”

We do not have to wait and have our oppressions drag out and bear it patiently, because there is no power that can keep us out of our inheritance of health. It is the same as any other part of our inheritance, if we do not claim it, we can never receive it.

This inheritance includes righteousness, peace in our hearts, health in our bodies and we need to know that these things are included in our inheritance before we can appropriate them or claim and use them.

In 1st Corinthians 3:21-23, Paul tells us the extent of this inheritance, “*Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*”

That is a wonderfully comprehensive word. All that we need on earth or Heaven, whether it is needed or desired, it is already ours. That is so comprehensive that some people would hardly think that it was true. Our inheritance is to have a long, peaceful, happy life; it is in our hands, we may have it, or throw it away, neglect it or receive it.

God said to Israel in Deuteronomy 30:19, “*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*”

God says, “Therefore choose life.” Choose your inheritance, appropriate it, or claim it and receive it. We can have a long, peaceful, happy life, it is our choice.

Romans 8:16-17, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.*”

Joint-heirs means an equal heir, all that Jesus received as an inheritance, we have an equal share with Him.

Again 1st Corinthians 3, “*For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*”

That sounds almost too good to be true, and yet it is God’s Word, which cannot be broken, it will still stand when this old world passes away; we are heirs with God and equal heirs with Jesus Christ. We have as

much right to God’s love, mercy, power, riches, and health, as Jesus Christ has, we have fallen heir to it.

2 Peter 1:3, “*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.*”

It is all ours, and we have details of just what we really have and to have the right to expect from the Lord in the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. It covers every need and desire anyone could have, whether it be spiritual, physical, or financial, whatever it could be to make one righteous, happy, and well, and come to the place of perfect peace and victory in all things.

This is from the Young’s Literal Translation, Isaiah 53:1, “*Who hath given credence to that which we heard? And the arm of Jehovah, On whom hath it been revealed?*”

Whoever follows on this plan will have the arm of Jehovah revealed; they will see the hand of God moving in their behalf. The moment we believe and take the story of the Cross in the New Testament or the type of the Cross in the Old Testament, the moment we are oppressed spiritually, physically, financially, in the home or wherever it might be, if we get under that Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross; purchasing our redemption, it will be taken away.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:18, “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”

In other words, the moment we hear and believe the story of the Cross there is a manifestation of God’s power in deliverance immediately.

Isaiah 53:2-4, “*Yea, he cometh up as a tender plant before Him, And as a root out of a dry land, He hath no form, nor honour, when we observe him, Nor appearance, when we desire him. He is despised, and left of men, A man of pains, and acquainted with sickness, And as one hiding the face from us, He is despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains—he hath carried them.*”

The Holy Spirit is trying to teach us through Isaiah, that we are free from sickness and pain, from the slightest scratch to serious cuts, from a little bruise to the extreme. Jesus bore it all on the Cross. Our inheritance in Jesus is perfect health and strength in these bodies and perfect peace and protection. Surely

our sicknesses he hath borne, and our pains--he hath carried them.

God, by His Holy Spirit, will enable us to see every pain, ache, and sickness nailed to the Cross. It has been borne for us 2000 years ago when Jesus’ body was broken that ours would have a right to be whole, through His bruises there is healing granted to us.

Isaiah 53: 4-5, “*And we—we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted. And he is pierced for our transgressions, Bruised for our iniquities, The chastisement of our peace is on him, And by his bruise there is healing to us.*”

Transgressions mean, the sins we have committed, iniquities mean, this old inward self, the seat of sin. Not only were our transgressions cancelled at the Cross, but that deceitful self was nailed there too, and we can be free from them both.

Our sinful self, with all our transgressions, have been nailed to the Cross, and we have the privilege to live a righteous life because Jesus was pierced for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

That means there is nothing in this world that men or Satan can do to harm us. Anything that could trouble or worry us spiritually, physically, or financially, in the home or workplace or anywhere at any time; all the burdens, sorrows, and troubles that could disturb our peace have been nailed to the Cross, and we have a right to be as peaceful and restful as a mild summer day, for the peace that God gives, passes all human understanding.

It does not make any difference what the trouble is or who is causing it, or what has caused it, we have a right to have it removed and claim our inheritance of peace. Our peace has no right to be disturbed, for when Jesus purchased perfect peace, He did it effectually, for the full chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

Jesus gave His life to give us peace and He lives to carry it into effect, for all power and authority in Heaven and earth are His, even the elements obey Him, as He said, “Peace, be still.”

