

# Our Inheritance in Christ

## Part 1

SOO5 25 0413P

Our inheritance in Christ is the subject which we would like to take up. It is only natural that we should hear about our inheritance in Christ, in order to understand it more thoroughly.

There is no man who has a checking account with a bank who does not occasionally get his check book and balance it to know just how much he has in there and how much he can draw upon.

You will also notice that businesses go over their inventory, thus taking account of stock to see how much they really have; then they go over their finances to see just where they stand financially, how much capital they have, and what profit they made during the year.

Do you know, we as Christians, are not so practical as these businessmen; for the children of this world are frequently wiser than the children of light.

We should desire to go back and take account of our stock, our riches, our inheritance in Christ, as carefully as they do. They are very careful, figuring out their business accounts to know just how much they have and where they stand, and unless we know what we have in the bank or what we can spend, we cannot spend it nor enjoy it.

So, let us take account of our inheritance in Christ. We will start in 1 Peter 1:3--"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."

We discover here that we have fallen heir to something. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled."

You know an inheritance is something left to us; something which belongs to us; something given to us.

If you had a rich uncle, or grandfather, or even a father who made his will to leave you a portion of his money while he was still living, that will would not be of any account as far as you were concerned, as hosts of things might happen before you would get that money, or property.

However, suppose that loved one would pass away and there would be something in the will for you. After it had gone through the legal requirements, you would place it in a bank in your name, and then you would breathe a sigh of relief and say, "Now it is mine, I am sure of it."

There would be a sense of ownership that would take possession of you at once, and you would have no more worry or doubt, but you would have confidence that the money was yours, and you could spend as much as desired, or leave it in the bank; you would be absolute master of that money.

Well, beloved, we need to have the same sense of ownership and ask God to help us see and get hold of that heavenly, divine inheritance in Christ Jesus. When we see this relationship, when we see that we are owners, that this inheritance is ours to do with as we please--even God Himself cannot keep us out of it. If you never appropriate or use your inheritance it will do you no good.

The first foundation of confidence is ownership, and the moment we get hold of something which belongs to us, we have confidence to use it as we like.

If you lost your pocketbook and found it again, you would have confidence to use the contents in whatever way you desired.

However, if you found someone else's pocketbook, you would be a little hesitant about using the contents; you would have no confidence; but the moment you discovered that the owner could not be found and you were the owner, real confidence would immediately take possession of you, and you would have confidence to use that money in any way you desire.

In divine things it is exactly the same. The reason we receive so little of our inheritance--some of us--yes, most of us-- there are exceptions--is because we never receive that sense of ownership; we have never realized that we are the honest owners, and, of course, we

cannot take it and use it until we fully realize this fact.

Beloved, when God states in His Word that we have an inheritance, He means that something is left to us; something has gone through the courts as it were, has had all the legal endorsements and is deposited in our name; that is the real thought.

"To an inheritance" --something which has been left to us. What kind of an inheritance is it?

"Incorruptible, and undefiled" --it is unchanging and as pure as God is, not decayed, marred, mildewed; but just as fresh as the day it was put in the bank—all crisp new money--not soiled, nothing defiled about it, and best of all it fadeth not away.

Unfortunately, the majority of Christians do believe that their spiritual inheritance has faded entirely away, and their physical inheritance disappeared about 2000 years ago, and their financial inheritance never existed to enjoy.

The pastor was glad to say that the Holy Spirit exposes this condition of affairs, that this inheritance of ours is incorruptible, undefiled and fadeth not away; it has never disappeared, and there are sixteen ounces to every pound.

Satan has not been able to steal a penny, because it is reserved in Heaven for us. That does not mean that it is kept until you get to Heaven. Satan succeeds in making most people believe that; that it is being kept in Heaven for a safe deposit there. Remember where your inheritance is, always in Heaven, which is where it is deposited, not down here on earth. (That is Satan's suggestion.)

Some people think their spiritual inheritance is to be obtained through the wisdom of men, and they miserably fail.

Then they also think their physical inheritance is deposited down here on earth, through the wisdom of the medical industry, and they also fail and often meet death.

Others think their financial inheritance is down here also, and you find their brows getting wrinkled and their bodies worn out at the grindstone.

They cannot see because they are blind; their vision is engaged only with what they can earn with their two hands; they cannot see any inheritance reserved in Heaven for them. You hear them saying, "I never get anything but what

I work for, grind out at the grindstone six days a week." Because of their blindness they cannot see to the right hand or left, nor above. Their small salary is only a drop in the bucket to what God has for them to enjoy.

We need to see that there is something more which we can enjoy besides what our hands can earn, or what our husband or children can earn. We will always be engaged with what a husband or child can earn until we learn better.

Now, beloved, in Hebrews 9, we find this will has been made; Jesus has made the will, and He has died, and the will is in force. "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."

In other words, this proves that this will is in force, that the property has been turned over to us--that is the point He is making here.

We will now turn to Joshua 1: 3-6. Here God blessed Israel and gave them an inheritance, something they had not bought nor earned; He simply made them a present of it, not because of their unworthiness, but because of His love toward them, and because of the promise made to Abraham.

"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."

Do you not notice one condition, just the same as an earthly inheritance, --only the place they claimed--only that which they appropriated, only the land they put their feet on and said, "This is ours, this is our inheritance" was to be theirs?

God said the whole land was theirs, but only that which they appropriated would be theirs in reality. You know this is true about an earthly inheritance. You might have forty farms left to you, or \$40,000 in the bank, but if you did not

claim and take it or use it, it would be no good to you, no more than if you never had it.

It is exactly the same with our heavenly inheritance--all we put our hands on and take hold of--"whosoever will take the water of life freely"--it is ours for the taking.

Many Christians say, "Well, we have settled it this way, if the Lord wants me to be victorious over sin, He will catch me asleep and make me righteous, put it upon me while I am unaware, and when I awake, I will find myself righteous; if not, I will receive it after I am dead."

"Well, I have settled it, if God wants me to be healed, He will do so in His own good time; if not, I will suffer, whatever His will, I will wait patiently."(Those are Satan's suggestions to our minds.)

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

The pastor desired to explain those items. Some people do not know their items. He asked a large group one time to give him the items of their inheritance in Christ. The answer was eternal life; that was the beginning and the end. It is very nice to receive something in Heaven, but the beginning of that life is here, and, beloved, we need that also.

This inheritance includes peace in our hearts, righteousness in our hearts, health in our bodies, --while we are on earth, and we need to discover that these things are included in our inheritance before we can take them.

In 1 Corinthians 3: 21-22, 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, needful or desired is already ours. Some people would hardly think that true, it is so comprehensive, as we consider the items:--"Life or death," we may live long, or die soon; "our inheritance is to live out our full length of life--not to die prematurely--and to have our children with us; it is in our hands, because it is our inheritance

to have a long, peaceful, happy life; we may have it, or throw it away, neglect it or receive it.

God said unto 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." "Therefore, choose life" choose your inheritance, take it; so, it is in our hands.

Coming back to the Corinthian text "things present" something in the present; everything you can lay your eyes upon that is needful for this life is yours. "Things to come," something in the future also.

In Romans 8: 16-17, we are told— "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."

In other words, all that Jesus has received as an inheritance, we have an equal share with Him. Joint heirs means an equal heir. Say for instance, someone left \$1000 to two of their sons: they would say they want \$1,000 to be jointly divided between their two sons; that would mean each could receive \$500.

"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."

My, that seems marvelous, 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 joint-heirs--equal heirs with Jesus Christ. We have as much right to God's love, mercy, power, riches, and health, as Jesus Christ has, because we have fallen heir to it.

2 Peter 1:3 "According as His Divine power hat given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." It is all ours.



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