

“I am God’s Inheritance!”

Ephesians 1.11-14; 18; 2.4-7; Hebrews 2.10

Last week we focused on the fundamental truth that we are alive forever in Christ. That’s great, but inside us is a desire for significance – we want our lives to amount to something! How ‘bout this: In Christ, we are *God’s inheritance!* You may not feel like much, but to God you’re priceless!

- Understanding two kinds of inheritance
“Family” inheritance: passive, a gift; for who we are in Christ

“Favor” inheritance: active, reward; for who we become in Christ
- Our inheritance in Christ!
Adopted as sons (and daughters) (5)
Forgiveness of sin (7)
Life in the new heaven and new earth (10)
‘Signed, sealed, delivered!’ (13)
- We are God’s inheritance! (Eph. 1.18)
“God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1.12, 14)

To “show the surpassing riches of His grace” (Eph. 2.7)

To bring many sons to glory! (Hebrews 2.10)

1. Millions of people live their lives in ‘quiet desperation’ today; they wonder if their life matters – more to the point, if their life matters *to anyone else*. Two primary factors that contribute to this depressing feeling are 1) believing that there is no God (atheistic humanism), so life is just a brief experience of pain and suffering leading to death, or 2) believing that even if God does exist, He doesn’t ‘give a damn’ about us (deism). What is your view of God? What evidence has led you to that conclusion? To go deeper, read the first two sections of C.S. Lewis’s classic *Mere Christianity*.
2. The New Testament says much about the Christian’s “inheritance,” but it can seem confusing. This is because in New Testament times, there were two kinds of inheritance: There was ‘family’ inheritance that you received by being related to a person, and there was ‘favor’ inheritance given to those who were worthy. A child might receive a family inheritance, but lose much that *could have been* his because he was unfaithful. Similarly, some Christians will receive their ‘family’ inheritance (eternal life) as a member of God’s family, yet miss out on ‘favor inheritance’ (rewards) because of unfaithfulness. Try to distinguish references to family inheritance and to rewards in the following verses: Matt. 19.29; 25.34; Acts 20.32; 26.18; Rom. 8.17 (careful!); 1 Cor. 6.9-10; 15.50; Gal. 4.7; 5.19-21; Eph. 1.11, 14; 5.5; Col. 1.12; 3.24; Heb. 1.14; 9.15; 1 Pet. 1.4; 2 John 8.
3. What have you inherited by being “in Christ”? What did you receive the moment you believed in Jesus? Try to think of as many things as you can without help...then do some research. Can you think of 10? 20? 30? More?
4. Ephesians 1.18 says that God has a glorious inheritance in the saints – that us! Do you have a hard time thinking of yourself as valuable to God? Why are we so precious? What did it cost for us to become God’s “possession” (Heb. 2.10)? How are we ‘to the praise of His glory’ (Eph. 1.12, 14)? What will we be evidence of throughout all eternity (Eph. 2.7)? How does knowing you are God’s inheritance change the way you see yourself?

YOU ARE HIS INHERITANCE

THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS
INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

EPHESIANS 1:18

