

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sunday 28th January 2024

The Book of Ephesians – Where the rubber meets the road.

Ephesians 1:1-14 – Focus Verses 11-12

The Glorious Inheritance.

Questions. – Guideline – answer for yourself.

1. Have you ever made a promise that you kept?
2. Have you ever made a promise that you didn't keep?
3. Have you ever made a promise that you were incapable of keeping but wanted to?
4. Have you ever made a promise that you had no intention of keeping?

Here is a reminder of the spiritual blessings that we have covered.

W. A. Criswell – Believers bible study

In Christ I am...

- Blessed - verse 3
- Chosen - verse 4.
- Predestined - verse 5.
- Adopted - verse 5.
- Accepted - from the statement - "to the praise of his glory and his grace.

that he lavished on us.

We have talked about these and may have already known those.

We will about – In Christ I am ...

- Redeemed.
- Forgiven.
- Enlightened.

I am given an inheritance.

Benediction from Paul.

Ephesians 1:1-14 Christian Standard Bible

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus^[a] at Ephesus.^[b]

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Rich Blessings

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.^[c] **5** He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8** that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.^[d] **9** He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ **10** as a plan for the right time^[e]—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11 In him we have also received an inheritance,^[f] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, **12** so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

13 In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. **14** The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

- Verses 3-14 being a run on sentence in the Greek.

These are spiritual blessings.

Ephesians 1:11-12 are going to be our area of focus – The Blessing of Inheritance.

Ephesians 1:11-12 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance,^[1] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

Important –

- In Him we have received.
- In the Greek – One Compound Word

Scriptures predominantly written in Hebrew or Greek as they are so accurate.

In the Greek there are 3 to 4 words for Love and here we have one word for love.

Key Point – because with this phrase carries a lot with it that we may not realise.

McArthur Quote –

When something in the future was so certain that it could not possibly fail to happen, the Greeks would often speak of it as if it had already happened.

Paul uses this verb tense – certainly in this phrase – saying “We have received an inheritance”. – But if we think about the inheritance we know as believers – we would know that we haven’t got it yet.

- A certainty here.
- A guarantee it is going to happen.
- So much so it’s like we already have it – though we anticipate getting it.

Also, the translation is a compound word.

- We were made an inheritance.

Or

- Received an inheritance.

Both statements are correct and theologically correct.

Psalm 33:12 Christian Standard Bible

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD—
the people he has chosen to be his own possession!

Psalm 135:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel as his treasured possession.

John 6:37-39 Christian Standard Bible

³⁷ Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day.

John 10:29 Christian Standard Bible

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

John 17:2 Christian Standard Bible

² since you gave him authority over all people,^[a] so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him.

Malachi 3:17 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the LORD of Armies, "my own possession on the day I am preparing. I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him.

We can see this translated... "We were made an inheritance."

- Made God's possession when we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In the CSB translation – "We have received" – Equally theologically right.
- Consistent with the following verses.

Colossians 1

1 Peter 1:3-5 Christian Standard Bible – consistent with what Paul says.

A Living Hope

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

We have an inheritance.

Paul says...

Peter says...

Question – What is the inheritance?

Ephesians 1:11-12 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance,^[1] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

- Here the inheritance is not described – although it is inferred to.

Key Point – FOCUS – The one who gives and fulfills the inheritance – as Paul is focusing on almighty God – the one who gives the inheritance.

- It is important to remember who gives the inheritance and why.

We struggle with this, even when we expect to get something from the service on a Sunday morning!

What is the mentality – “I am here to get”?

- Or – “I am here to focus on the one who gives”.

We want to ask – what is my inheritance – what do I get!

We are to take a step back and focus on the giver.

Our inheritance as believers is – “We will one day get to spend eternity in the presence of our God, our saviour the Lord Jesus Christ, we will receive glorified bodies from sins curse.

More than that it is connected to the very great promises that God gives to us in scripture.

2 Peter 1:3-4 Christian Standard Bible

Growth in the Faith

³ His^[a] divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by^[b] his own glory and goodness. ⁴ By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

Precious promises from and with God

Love – Grace – Peace from God and with God

- Wisdom – guidance – strength – truth – righteousness – heaven – eternal riches.

Clear in scripture our inheritance in Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-4 – about our inheritance.

3 Things.

#1 – Lasts forever.

Why important.

Ephesians 1:3-4 Christian Standard Bible

God's Rich Blessings

³ Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.

⁴ For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.^[c]

- Imperishable – immortal – lasts forever – certain.
- We cannot lose our inheritance.

Think about that!

Our inheritance from God lasts for all eternity.

- In light of who gives it – God is eternal – He has always existed.

Imperishable inheritance that will never go.

#2 – Our Inheritance is undefiled – untainted.

- No corruption.
- It won't dwindle.
- It won't fade.
- It won't break down over time.

Why? – Because God is pure – untainted.

#3 – Our Inheritance is durable – unfading.

- It doesn't lose luster.
- As glorious from the beginning.
- Permanent – indestructible.
- Cannot spent it all out.
- Cannot be stolen.

Reflect upon a human estate – a human inheritance.

- These things are limited – they last but a moment – perishable – fade away over time.

Our inheritance from God, lasts for all eternity – imperishable.

The God we serve is more powerful than anything or anyone.

As we think about our inheritance as Peter describes it, as Paul has reminded us of something simple – We have received an inheritance – he doesn't really spell it out much more than that. Peter gives a little more detail.

Paul – talks about the glorified bodies that we are going to receive.

1 Corinthians – “This corruptible body is going to put on incorruption, this immortal is going to put on immortality. That one day at the resurrection this body that we have that is breaking down will be resurrected, spending eternity with almighty God which is a beautiful thing.”

We should think about the one who gives it.

Ephesians 1:11-12 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance,¹² because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will,

Question – What do we know?

- God keeps His promises.

Tree Areas of His Character.

#1. God is good.

- So, His promise is good, because God is good.
- His inheritance is good, because God is good.

Psalms 34:8 Christian Standard Bible

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.

How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!

Psalms 100:5 Christian Standard Bible

⁵ For the LORD is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.

1 Chronicles 16:34 Christian Standard Bible

³⁴ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.

– talks about the goodness of God.

Do we come back to the truth of Scripture when the bible says God is good.

Or do we believe the lies the enemy tells us – God's not always good sometimes – “The difficulty you are going through right now, doesn't that mean that God is not that good?”

- We have to come back to what the scriptures say that “God is good all the time”.

Our assurance of this inheritance is anchored in God's character.

- He makes good on His promises.

#2. He is able.

- In the beginning he created the heavens and the earth.

Do we take a step back when we read scripture and think about how good God is and His character.

Because he is omnipotent it is a guarantee.

- Because he is all powerful.

He does it because he can – we serve an all-powerful God.

As we think – “How am I going to get through this”.

- People facing imminent death – will one day spend eternity with their Lord and Saviour.

Romans 4:21

Ephesians 3:20

2 Corinthians 9:8

3 – He is true.

Whatever He says is true – period.

- Some of us have a promise and never meant to keep it – this makes us liars.
- But God is true.

2 Samuel 2:28

Revelation 16:7

- End of Ephesian passage - end of verse 11 into verse 12 – Paul praising God for how good God is.

Ephesians 1:11-12 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance,^[1] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

We should be passing out praise.

- Not just cries.
- But with our whole bodies.

Colossians

- Praising God with our voice
- Praising God in the lives that we live.
- A life of praise to God.

If we have put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ – we have our identity in Christ.

- Then we should live as Christ modelled for us.

He loved people who were hurting.

- He helped people.
- Sacrificed for people.

Think about this in light of the questions that were asked at the beginning of the sermon.

Questions.

1. *Have you ever made a promise that you kept?*
2. *Have you ever made a promise that you didn't keep?*
3. *Have you ever made a promise that you were incapable of keeping but wanted to?*
4. *Have you ever made a promise that you had no intention of keeping?*

Matthew 5 – Jesus saying to the disciples – ‘Don’t make an oath – let your yes be yes and your no be no.

Matthew 5:33-35 Christian Standard Bible

Tell the Truth

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord.**^[a] ³⁴ But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King.

Colossians 3:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your^[a] Creator.

These things are not to characterise the life of a believer.

Not allowing unwholesome communication out of our mouths.

Christian!

Have we been thinking about the inheritance – or more so the one who has promised it to us.