

“Jesus Privilege: Inheritance”

Ephesians 1:11-14

C.I.T.—When we identify with Christ, we receive His inheritance.

C.I.S.—We must accept the Gospel message to be included in his inheritance.

Purpose—I want people to rejoice in their salvation and I want to persuade people to come to Christ.

Introduction—1991, German countess, Karlotta Leibenstein bequeathed \$80 million to her German Shepherd, Gunther III

I. Inheritance Possessed.

- a. Receiving an inheritance
 - i. Grammatically could refer to either being the inheritance that God possesses, or receiving an inheritance that we possess
 - ii. Context refers to the privileges of what we have received
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:3-4
 - iv. Aorist, which means, while we haven’t received it practically, we possess it now
- b. We, in Him
 - i. The inheritance is therefore that of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. Romans 8:16-17
- c. Illus.—Beneficiaries in a Will, possess it, but don’t realize it until the Will is executed
- d. Application
 - i. Already and not yet
 - ii. If you are “in Him,” then you also possess His inheritance.

II. Inheritance Praised.

- a. Predestined/predetermine/decided before hand
 - i. This modifies the verb, not the subject.
 - ii. It does not refer to someone being “predestined” to be in Him, but those who are in Him “predestined” to receive an inheritance
 - iii. Illus.—we Decided before to split inheritance evenly
 - iv. Application
 1. The Lord predetermined and decided before hand that He would give an inheritance to Jesus.
 2. And that whoever was “in Jesus” would receive the inheritance that Jesus received.
 3. But this verse does not say that the Lord predetermined who would get “in Jesus.”
- b. This decision to add those “in Him” to His Will, came from the overarching purposes of God, according to His desire.
- c. This desire was to elicit praise from those who placed their hope in the Lord.
- d. Illus.—Rockefeller/Vanderbilt—credit goes ultimately to the first one
- e. Application
 - i. The Lord did not have to include us in His will.
 - ii. His love prompted Him to do so.
 - iii. When we realize that we possess Jesus’ inheritance, we should praise the Lord.

III. Inheritance Promised

- a. Switch from “we” to “you”
 - i. Reference to the Gentile Believers
 - ii. Application—change in syntax and structure
- b. Hearing and Believing
 - i. Heard with understanding
 1. Aorist refers to a one time event
 2. Heard it multiple times, but this time it clicked with you.

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- ii. Believed—trusting Jesus as Savior
- c. Holy Spirit as promise.
 - i. Holy Spirit as a Seal
 1. Seal—stamp in wax used to close and secure documents, boxes, tombs
 2. Communicated authority, ownership, and protection
 3. This seal assured the one of final delivery.
 - ii. Holy Spirit as Deposit
 1. Deposit was an initial “down payment,” which was a portion of the final purchase that guaranteed the final purchase.
 2. The deposit was a small portion of what the whole would be.
 3. In this case, the Holy Spirit we receive on earth (power, guidance, peace, knowledge) is merely the first taste of what our inheritance will be in Heaven.
- d. The final purchase is Heaven.
- e. Illus.—Signature, witnesses, seal to assure the execution of the Will
- f. Application
 - i. If you are in Jesus, you have received the person of the Holy Spirit in your life.
 - ii. His presence serves as the ultimate assurance of your possession of this inheritance.

Conclusion

- Dog’s net worth today
- You have an inheritance that is greater than that.
- You have the chance to get in on an inheritance that is greater than that.
 - Heard the Word—heard with understanding—it clicked with you
 - Believed—responded by trusting Jesus
- You can become a joint heir with Jesus, if you are willing to trust Him.

1 Peter 1:3 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. (1 Pet. 1:3 CSB17)

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs-- heirs of God and coheirs with Christ-- if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:16 CSB17)