

The Things Freely Given Us of God

Joint-Heir With Christ

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- Romans 8:14-17 (1201)—there is tons of good stuff in these verses but I want to focus this morning on what it means to be a joint-heir with Christ.
- Romans 8:16—the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. How and where does this happen? It happens in the inner man of believers as they read and study God's word. We don't know we are the children of God apart from God's word telling us that we are. It is not a feeling. In fact most of time if were to go by our feelings and circumstances we would not feel very much like the children of God.

Joint-Heirs With Christ

- Romans 8:17—notice the progression in Paul’s logic. If we are the children of God, then we are heirs of God. If we are heirs of God, then we are joint-heirs with Christ. (Read Definitions)
 - Matthew 21:38 (1029)—notice that what makes someone an heir is that they receive an inheritance.
 - Mark 12:17 (1062)
 - Galatians 4:1-7 (1245)—by the indwelling Holy Spirit that we learned about last week we have been made the sons of God. Therefore, because we are no longer servant but a son we are an heir of God through Christ.

Joint-Heirs With Christ

- Joint-heirs—a joint-heir is a fellow heir or one who obtains something assigned to himself with others, i.e., a joint participant. According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* the English means “a heir having a joint interest with another (Rom.8).
 - Ephesians 3:6 (1252)
- As joint-heirs with Christ, we inherit, received, and participate with Christ in his inheritance. Whatever belongs to Christ is ours. Christ's inheritance is our inheritance.

Christ's Inheritance/Our Inheritance

- Ephesians 1:11 (1250)—in Jesus Christ we have already received an inheritance. The reception of this inheritance has been predestinated to us according to the purposes of God. Remember that we are joint-heir with Christ. Therefore, there is no inheritance for those who are not in Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:4—we are not chosen “to be in him” but chosen “in him.” Before the foundation of the world the Godhead elected/chose Jesus Christ to be the one through whom eternal salvation would be accomplished. As believers we are chosen and predestined “in Christ” and one gets into Christ through faith in the finished word of Jesus Christ. Until one exercises saving faith they are in Adam and predestinated to eternal suffering and separation from God.
- Ephesians 1:11-14—one of the things that God has predestinated us unto is to received an inheritance. The Holy Spirit has been given to us as the earnest of our inheritance.

Christ's Inheritance/Our Inheritance

- Ephesians 1:17—the titled of our new series is The Things Freely Given us of God. Paul prays for the Ephesians that they might be given “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.” In other words, Paul wants the Ephesians to understand the things freely given them of God.
- Ephesians 1:18—notice that Paul prays that the eyes of their understanding might be enlightened so that they might “know” some things about what God is doing. In the second half of the verse we see a second thing believers are supposed to know.
- Notice that this verse is talking about **his inheritance** not **our inheritance**. Our inheritance is discussed in Ephesians 1:11-14, however, this verse is talking about **his inheritance**. Paul wants us to know about God the Father's inheritance. The Greek word translated “inheritance” means: 1) property received (or to be received) by inheritance, 2) what is given to one as a possession, according to *Strong's Concordance*.

Christ's Inheritance/Our Inheritance

- Notice where God the father receives his inheritance—in **the saints**. Please understand what Paul is saying. God the Father stands to inherit something through us the church the Body of Christ. What is it that God inherits through us? The authority of rule and dominion in the heavenly places.
- Colossians 1:16-20 (1263)—it is through the blood of his cross that Jesus Christ will reconcile all the governmental structures of heaven and earth back to himself.
- Isaiah 14:12-16 (726)—Lucifer's initial boast was to be like the most high.
- Genesis 14:19 (23)—the term the most high means to be the possessor of heaven and earth. When Satan said, "I will be like the most high," he was saying he wanted to be the possessor of heaven and earth.
- John 12:31 (1133)—refers to Satan as the prince of this world. Ephesians 2:2 (1251)—refers to Satan as the prince the power of the air.

Conclusion

- Ephesians 1:20-22—God the Father has given his Son an exalted position in the heavenly places far above all principality, power, might, and dominion. All things have been placed under the feet of Christ and He is the head of all things to the Christ.
- We are in Christ and Christ is in us. We are ascended and seated with Christ in the heavenly places. As members of the body of Christ, the agency that Christ is now forming, we are joint-heirs with the head of body of Christ. Whatever belongs to him belongs to us.
- Romans 8:32 (1202)—we have been freely given all things.
- Titus 3:7 (1284)—we have been made heirs according to the promise of eternal life.

Christ's Inheritance/Our Inheritance

- It is through the formation of the body of Christ, the subject of the mystery kept secret since the world began, that God is going to repossess the heavenly places back to himself. It is through us as members of the body of Christ that God will reestablish his authority over the heavenly places and receive them again as his inheritance.
- Ephesians 3:10-11(1252)—it is us the church the body of Christ that teaches the principalities and powers in heavenly places the manifold wisdom of God.
- So we see that not only did we need God but he needed us so that he might accomplish his eternal purpose through his son Jesus Christ. Not only are we the recipients of an inheritance because we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ but God the Father receives an inheritance in and through us as members of the body of Christ.