

Sunday, November 11, 2012—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Joint-Heirs With Christ

Introduction/Review

- I Corinthians 2:10-12
- In our last study in this series we looked at how as believers we are the temple of God. We saw that we are indwelt by all three members of the Godhead: 1) God the Father, 2) God the Son, and 3) God the Holy Spirit
- In this study we want to consider what it means to be a joint heir with Christ. One of the things that has been freely given us by God in an inheritance. We have been made rich in Jesus Christ.

Joint-Heirs With Christ

- Romans 8:14-17—there is tons of God 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.
- 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.
 - Heirs—comes from the Greek word *klēronomos*, which means: 1) one who receives by lot, an heir, 2) one who has acquired or obtained the portion allotted to him, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
 - Heir—the English word carries the following meanings according to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*: 1) The man who succeeds, or is to succeed another in the possession of lands, tenements and hereditaments, by descent; the man on whom the law casts an estate of inheritance by the death of the ancestor or former possessor; or the man in whom the title to an estate of inheritance is vested by the operation of law, on the death of a former owner. 2) One who inherits, or takes from an ancestor. The son is often heir to the disease, or to the miseries of the father. 3) One who succeeds to the estate of a former possessor (Jer.49. Mic.1). 4) One who is entitled to possess. In Scripture, saints are called heirs of the promise, heirs of righteousness, heirs of salvation, &c., by virtue of the death of Christ, or of God's gracious promises.
 - Matthew 21:38—notice that what makes someone an heir is that they receive an inheritance.

- Mark 12:17
- Galatians 4:1-7—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—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
- 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.

Our Inheritance/Christ’s Inheritance

- Ephesians 1:11—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.
- Ephesians 1:17—the titled of our new series is The Things Freely Given us of God. Paul prayers 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 prayers 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*.

- 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—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—Lucifer's initial boast was to be like the most high.
- Genesis 14:19—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—refers to Satan as the prince of this world. Ephesians 2:2—refers to Satan as the prince the power of the air.
- 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 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—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.

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 Church.
- 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—we have been freely given all things.
- Titus 3:7—we have been made heirs according to the promise of eternal life.