

Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED

Title: His Inheritance

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Date: Sept. 22, 2024

Introduction

Still living at home, bored, and expecting to inherit a fortune when his sickly widower father died, Robert decided he needed a woman to keep him company.

So he went to a singles bar, and he searched until he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away. "Right now, I'm just an ordinary man," he said as he walked up to her, "but within a month or two, my father will pass away and I'll inherit over 20 million dollars." The woman went home with Robert that night.

And four days later she became his...stepmother.

It's amazing what lengths some people will go to for an earthly inheritance, often to only be disappointed when they don't actually receive what they think they are going to get. But there is a spiritual inheritance that is far more valuable and lasting than any inheritance than any we could ever receive here on this earth. And the good news is that for those of us who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, that inheritance is guaranteed by God Himself.

The elevated themes of Ephesians make it highly praised and prized by commentators.

Ephesians has been called:

- "the Queen of the Epistles,"
- "the quintessence of Paulinism,"
- "the divinest composition of man,"
- "the Waterloo of commentators."
- Some say that Ephesians reads "like a commentary on the Pauline letters."
- It has been best termed "the crown of Paulinism." (Bruce)

**WE ARE BLESSED IN CHRIST WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING
IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES (3-14)**

- Blessed us in the heavenly realms – v.3
- Chose us to be blameless in his sight v.4
- Predestined us in accordance with HIS pleasure and will – v.5
- Redeemed us – purchased – v.7
- Grace lavished on us – v.8
- Made known the mystery of His will in Christ to us – v.9

- To brings unity to all things including us – v.10
- He works it out in us according to His will – v.11
- That We put our hope in him – v.12
- Each one of us who responds is included – v.13
- Sealed us – the deposit guaranteeing our inheritance – v.14

REASONS FOR THANKS

Eph. 1:15-16

¹⁵ *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,* ¹⁶ *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...*

In light of the love, grace, adoption, and inheritance...

To commend them for faith and love.

Paul asks God for one thing that produces three results:

A PRAYER FOR ONE THING –

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION TO KNOW HIM

Eph. 1:17

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...

Wisdom and Revelation

- The Trinity is seen here – Lord Jesus, Father and Spirit.
- Spirit – *pneuma* - wind, breath, spirit.
- Wisdom – *sophia* - insight, skill (human or divine), intelligence.
- Revelation – *apokalupsis* - an unveiling, uncovering, revealing, revelation.

Eph. 1:18

...The eyes of our hearts enlightened...

- Eyes of our heart - internal, spiritual eyes on the eternal.

- Heart – center of Knowledge
- Enlightened – light up, illumine, I bring to light, make evident, reveal.
- Eyes of the heart – door to the heart

REVELATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD REVEALS THREE THINGS WE CAN KNOW

Know the Hope

Eph. 1:18

...that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you...

- Hope that He has called you to:
 - We are the same people we were five years ago other than the books we have read, the places we have gone, the people we have met – we cannot be stagnant in our knowledge and growth in the Lord.
 - After one leaves the education system – no one puts a syllabus in front of you. You must take on learning yourself.
 - He has called you to know HIM – He who brings hope.

Know the riches of inheritance

Eph. 1:18

...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

- The inheritance is HIS inheritance!
- We are God's inheritance.

Know the Greatness of His Power and Position

Eph. 1:19-23

¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Know the immeasurable power toward us who believe

Power from Him - Immeasurable

- *...according to the working of his great might...*
- *...that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places...*

Power toward us - who believe

His position - Head over all things

- *...and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places...*
- *...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion...*
- *...above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*
- *...And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church...*

Our Position in Him- the fullness of Him

- *...His body...*
- *...the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

Wisdom, Revelation, Hope, Inheritance, His power, His position –
For What?

The Fullness of Christ in the Church