



TITLE:

Ephesians 1:11-12 - We Have Obtained an Inheritance

INTRODUCTION:

- The theme of the Epistle is that we must walk with Christ on earth because of our position with Christ in heavenly places.
- Ephesians 1:11-12 is part of the first section of the Doctrinal Content of the epistle.
- Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence in the original Greek that connects these verses to show the believer's position in Christ.

REVIEW: BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST:

1. God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (1:3).
2. Before the foundation of the world, God hath chosen us that we should be holy and without blame before Him (1:4).
3. God hath predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ (1:5).
4. God hath made us accepted in the beloved (1:6).
5. We have redemption and forgiveness of sins (1:7).
6. The mystery of God's will has been made known unto us (1:9-10).

WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE

- Aside from the blessings or positions that we have in Christ that are mentioned in 1:3-10, we also have obtained an inheritance.
 - o The word "we | have obtained an inheritance" (ἐκλήρωθημεν - eklērōthēmen) is an aorist passive indicative verb that means to assign or to allot an inheritance.
 - o The verb is in passive voice, meaning the believers receive the action.
 - o The aorist tense indicates a completed action in the past. It is generally rendered as a simple past tense.
- Obtaining an inheritance is based on being predestinated by God.
 - o Compare 1:5. We have been predestinated or predetermined unto the adoption of children or the placement of a son.
 - Having an inheritance is an integral aspect of being a son.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is the "natural" Son of God - the eternally "only begotten Son" (John 1:18).
 - God had predestinated us to be the adopted sons of God, joint-heirs of Christ (Rom. 8:17).
- Being a child of God (joint-heirs of Christ) and having an inheritance is part of God's will that is mentioned in 1:8-10.
 - o Redemption, forgiveness, election, and predestination of believers are all part of God's will.
 - o This is how the riches of His grace hath abounded toward us (1:7).
 - o God worketh ALL THINGS after the counsel of His own will (1:11).
 - o The word "worketh" is a present active participle, meaning that God is continually operating or orchestrating all things according to His will.
 - o "The counsel of His will" - The combination of "counsel" with "will" suggests the Lord's purposeful deliberation and its implementation. His will flows from His decree.
- Colossians 1:20-29:
 - o Colossians was first written by Paul. Then, he wrote Ephesians afterward.
 - o Colossians gives further details about the mystery of God's will - to gather together in one all things in Christ.
 - o It is to reconcile all things unto Christ through the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20).
 - To reconcile means to bring back to a state of harmony.
 - There is an enmity between man and God because of sin.
 - The whole creation is under the curse because of sin.
 - Christ's sacrifice is the way to reconcile all things back to God (Col. 1:21-22).

- Paul's ministry is in line with the will of God (Col. 1:25-28).
 - He warns and teaches everyone in all wisdom (about the will of God) that he may present every man perfect in Christ.
 - Practical applications result from knowing all wisdom. This is evident in the Ephesians and Colossians epistles.
- God is doing all these things for the believers that we should be to the praise of His glory (1:12).
 - God's culminating goal is to the praise of the glory of His grace.
 - Paul gave the second of three doxologies:
 - Chosen, Predestinated of God the Father ... to the praise of the glory of His grace (1:6)
 - Redemption through God the Son and obtaining an inheritance... to the praise of His glory (1:12)
 - Believer's Sealing with God the Spirit ... unto the praise of His glory (1:14)
- These blessings in heavenly places in Christ are for those who first trusted in Christ (1:12).
 - Two groups: Jews and Gentiles in these passages.
 - Paul included himself to the Jews who first trusted in Christ.
 - The expression "ye also" in 1:13 refers to the Gentiles.

CHALLENGE:

Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

- Put off concerning the former conversation.
- Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- Put on the new man.