

Ephesians 005 - An Inheritance - 1:11-14 - 2014-06-22

Call to Worship: Colossians 3:23-24

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Sermon: "An Inheritance" Ephesians 1:11-14

Benediction: Acts 20:32

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, (12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (13) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

REVIEW

We are to bless God, for He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ!

What are those spiritual blessings with which He has blessed us?

Last time we considered one mentioned here---redemption through His blood!

INTRODUCTION

This time we consider another mentioned here---an inheritance in Him.

NOTE: NIV, Geneva have "chosen"; "chosen" is one of the connotations of the word, but not the full meaning here; the fuller idea, which is what appears in the other translations, is more like "chosen to have a share in an inheritance"

Read the text: Ephesians 1:11-14

NOTE: I have been greatly helped by Thomas Goodwin on this one!

I. What is meant by inheritance

We can learn from the meaning of the word in the New Testament Greek and in the historical reference from the Old Testament

A. There are three connotations in this Greek word rendered "inheritance."

1. a part or share or portion in a thing
 - “this is your share”
 - “this is your portion”
2. something inherited
 - a. not paid to you for your labor
 - b. not bought by you, but
 - c. given to you by someone
3. something that comes to you by lot
 - a. this is an ancient method for assigning things to people
 - i. you put stones or pieces of wood or something else to represent each person into a bag or jar
 - ii. you then pour out the contents - first to pour out is selected
 - b. it was practiced in ancient Israel, by God’s command
 - c. it has been practiced in our own history
 - i. especially for assigning property
 - ii. thus the words “lot” and “allotment”
 - d. we have the “lottery” in our present culture
 - e. NOTE: the two features that make the lot what it is
 - i. it appears to be random, to be decided by chance
 - ii. it actually is guided by God

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

B. There is one main historical reference in the Old Testament

Numbers 33:54 And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

Note the same three features:

1. a share in something
2. that is an inheritance
3. that comes to you by lot

Goodwin: [not his exact words] a share in an inheritance assigned to you by lot

I. What is meant by inheritance: a share in an inheritance assigned to you by lot

II. What the inheritance is; what we inherit

Let’s see our inheritance described in the scriptures

A. In the Lord Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount

1. the kingdom of heaven
2. comfort from our mourning

3. the earth
4. fullness of righteousness
5. seeing God
6. being called the sons of God
7. the kingdom of heaven

B. In the book of Revelation

Here our inheritance is described in several points, then summed up in one very small word

Revelation 21:1-8 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (2) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (5) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (6) And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. (7) He who overcomes **shall inherit ALL**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. (8) But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars **shall have their part** in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

1. he who overcomes shall have his part in ALL, with God as his God and him as God's son
 - a. a place in the new heaven and new earth (v. 1)
 - b. a share in being the bride of Christ (v. 2)
 - c. a dwelling place with God (v. 3)
 - d. a wiping away of every tear by God Himself (v. 4)
 - e. freedom from death, sorrow, crying, and pain (v. 4)
 - f. the fountain of the water of life---meaning everlasting life (v. 6)
2. all others shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone

III. By whose will we inherit it

- A. we were predestined to inherit it
- B. we were predestined to inherit it according to the purpose of God
- C. He works all things according to the counsel of His will

IV. By what means we inherit it - faith

V. For what purpose we inherit it - the praise of His glory

Goodwin:

verb "we have obtained an inheritance"

1. having a part or a portion in a thing
2. a part or a portion of an inheritance (as Acts 26:17-18)
3. a lot (The Jews' inheritances were divided by lot; so Numbers 34:13)

Here is, first, a part or portion; which part or portion is an inheritance; which inheritance cometh by lot. The word doth imply all these

it is a word of a passive signification, and it implieth that we are passive in obtaining it

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

when they began to trust in Christ, then they began to have a part and portion in this lot . . . though they were predestined to it before

see Acts 8, where Simon Magus has no part

"Look to the fountain of all this"

who works all things according to the counsel of His will
“he had done it by a set decree, from everlasting”

“he ruleth, and ruleth effectually, things wherein men are most free”
“if God thus doth work all things, certainly then he works grace much more, when he turns the will to believe”

“There are those that think grace is wrought by the counsel of man’s will. ‘God indeed giveth me power to believe, or not to believe, and then the counsel of my will casteth it.’ No! it is according to the counsel of his will, not according to the counsel of thy will”

Acts 26:17-18 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, (18) to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are kept by the power of God **through faith** for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Psalms 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.