

Series: Ephesians
Title: Inheritance Obtained
Text: Ephesians 1: 11
Date: April 7, 2013
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Our focus this morning will be this one glorious truth declared in **Ephesians 1: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance...**

Titled: Inheritance Obtained

Divisions: Our divisions will be 1) To see that it is in Christ that we have obtained our inheritance 2) Who has obtained it; 3) We will see the fact that our inheritance is already ours 4) We will consider what our inheritance is

I. OUR INHERITANCE IS OBTAINED IN CHRIST—V11: IN WHOM

Everything that God the Father has for his children is in his Son, Christ Jesus. God gave the work of glorifying his name and saving his people to his Son. Christ has, is and shall do everything necessary to bring his children to the Father. God the Holy Spirit bears witness of Christ in our hearts—the Lord Jesus said,

John 16: 13: Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Everything that God the Father has for his children is in his Son, Christ Jesus.

V3: God the Father blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* **IN CHRIST**

V4: According as he hath chosen us **IN HIM** before the foundation of the world,

V5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children **BY JESUS CHRIST** to himself,

V6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted **IN THE BELOVED.**

V7: IN WHOM we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

V10: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things **IN CHRIST**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* **IN HIM:**

V11: IN WHOM we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

V12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted **IN CHRIST.**

V13 IN WHOM ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **IN WHOM** also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

V15: Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith **IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, and love unto all the saints,

V19: the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought **IN CHRIST**, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, ...**Eph 2: 6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **IN CHRIST JESUS**

2: 10: For we are his workmanship, created **IN CHRIST JESUS**

2: 13 But now **IN CHRIST JESUS** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

2: 21 IN WHOM all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple **IN THE LORD:**

2: 22 IN WHOM ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Application: The foundation and fountain of all spiritual blessings is in Christ Jesus. Listen to scripture:

- Grace and truth came **by Jesus Christ** (Jn 1: 17)
- There is now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus** (Ro 8: 1)
- It is the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** that hath made us free from the law of sin and death (Rom 8: 2)
- The love of God is **in Jesus Christ our Lord** (Rom 8: 39)
- We are one body **in Christ** (Rom 12: 5)
- The church of God is sanctified **in Christ Jesus** (1 Cor 1: 2)
- **In Christ** we are begotten through the gospel (1 Cor 4: 15)
- We have hope **in Christ Jesus** (1 Cor 15: 19)
- **In Christ** shall all be made alive (1 Cor 15: 22)
- Our rejoicing is **in Christ Jesus** (1 Cor 15: 31)
- Our love for one another is **in Christ Jesus** (1 Cor 16: 14)
- God always causes us to triumph **in Christ Jesus** (2 Cor 2: 14)
- The vail over the heart is done away **in Christ** (2 Cor 3: 14)
- If any man be **in Christ** he is a new creature (2 Cor 5: 17)
- God reconciled us unto himself **in Christ** (2 Cor 5: 19)
- Our liberty is **in Christ Jesus** (Gal 2: 4)
- We are justified **by Christ** (Gal 2: 17)
- The everlasting covenant is confirmed of God **in Christ Jesus** (Gal 3: 17)
- We are all children of God by faith **in Christ Jesus** (Gal 3: 26)
- We are all one **in Christ Jesus** (Gal 3: 28)
- The truth is **in Jesus Christ** (Eph 4: 21)
- You were darkness, but now are ye light **in the Lord Jesus** (Eph 5: 8)
- We are filled with fruits of righteousness **by Christ Jesus** (Php 1: 11)
- Our consolation and comfort of love is **in Christ** (Php 2: 1)
- The high calling of God is **in Christ Jesus** (Php 3: 14)
- The peace of God keeps our hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus** (Php 4: 7)
- We can do all things **through Christ** which strengthens us (Php 4: 13)
- God supplies all our need according to his riches in glory **by Christ Jesus** (Php 4: 19)
- Every believer shall be presented to God perfect **in Christ Jesus** (Col 1: 28)
- The ministry we have received is **in the Lord** (Col 4: 17)
- The dead shall rise **in Christ** (1 Thess 4: 16)
- We are preserved **in Jesus Christ** (Jude 1: 1)
- The grace of our Lord is exceeding abundant with faith and love which is **in Christ Jesus** (1 Tim 1: 14)
- The promise of life is **in Christ Jesus** (2 Tim 1: 1)
- God saves us and called us, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us **in Christ Jesus** before the world began (2 Tim 1: 9)
- We offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God **by Jesus Christ** (1 Pet 2: 5)
- We have been called unto eternal glory **by Christ Jesus** (1 Pet 5: 10)

Application: Everything God has for his people is in, by and through Christ Jesus the Son of God.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son....20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

If you are here today and do not know Christ, do not believe on Christ—you should make it your preeminent goal to seek mercy from Christ Jesus, to cast all your care into his hands and to learn of him.

II. WHO HAS OBTAINED THIS INHERITANCE?—“WE HAVE”—WHO ARE THE “WE”?

We who believe ourselves to be totally ruined in sin, undeserving of the least of God’s favors.

Application: Sinner, can you honestly say that you deserve nothing from God? Can you say the only reason God has done anything for you is because it was God’s will and God’s good pleasure to do so—to bring you to praise his glorious grace? That is the “we” who have obtained an inheritance.

“We” who have been sanctified—set apart and made holy—by the triune God.

- Sanctified by the Father in divine election
- Sanctified by the Son in blood redemption
- Sanctified by the Spirit in regeneration—

Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

“We” who are sons by adoption and therefore God sent forth his gospel and his Spirit giving us life.

Galatians 4: 6: And BECAUSE ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7: Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an HEIR of God through Christ.

Romans 8: 16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

“We” who persevere in faith by his keeping power, suffering for the sake of Christ and his gospel.

Romans 8: 17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; IF SO BE that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18: For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

“We” who believe we have been justified, not by our works, but by God’s pure grace.

Titus 3: 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made HEIRS according to the hope of eternal life.

Application: Sinner, do you believe there is no work you can do to justify you from your sins? Do you believe Christ has done it all by his grace? That is who have obtained an inheritance from God.

“We” to whom God has sent forth his elect angels to protect and minister unto.

Hebrews 1:14: Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be HEIRS of salvation?

“We” to whom God has shown the immutability of his counsel.

Hebrews 6:17: Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the HEIRS of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

Application: Sinner, do you believe God? Are you persuaded that not only can God not lie, but that he has gone out of his way to prove to you his promise is unchangeable? That is who the “we” are that have obtained an inheritance from God our Father.

“We” who are the poor of this world.

James 2:5: Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and HEIRS of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

“We” who are Christ’s and Abraham’s true spiritual sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:29: And if ye *be* Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and HEIRS according to the promise.

“We” who delight in God’s will and good pleasure and purpose.

- V5:...predestinated us unto the adoption...according to the good pleasure of his will,
- v9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Application: Sinner, the “we” who have obtained an inheritance—truly delight in God’s will, in God saving us according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself. We delight to know that all things are governed according to God’s sovereign predestination. Is that the case with you? That is who the “we” are who have obtained an eternal inheritance. But if you say, “No” to any of these things—then you are not one of the “we” who have obtained eternal inheritance. All that awaits you is a tormenting worm that never dies. An eternal view of our bliss while you gnaw your tongue in pain and blaspheme God in your bitter hatred. It terrifies me to think about it.

III. Believer, THE SPIRIT OF GOD GIVES US THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE ALREADY POSSESS OUR INHERITANCE—IT IS CURRENTLY OURS—V11:...WE HAVE OBTAINED

The phrase means we are passive in obtaining it. It is not a thing we seek, but the words mean “we have been allotted or assigned a possession.” It means we have been “chosen and apportioned an inheritance by lot.” Just as we passively “receive forgiveness of sins”, likewise we passively “receive an inheritance.” (Acts 26: 18) It was not a thing we deserved; it was the free gift of God in Christ—“**being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.**”

This is not an inheritance like our earthly inheritance which is passed on merely because of who our earthly father was. Many of the natural sons of Abraham did not receive it—but the election have obtained it. This inheritance is blood bought by the blood of the Lamb of God, Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 53: 12: “He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Application: Does that describe you? Have you passively had God to choose you, to redeem you and to give you life and repentance and faith in Christ Jesus?

Now be sure to get this, believer, “We have obtained” means our inheritance is not something that will be ours in the future, it is ours now—we HAVE obtained. Christ has entered in and taken possession of our inheritance for us already.

John 14:2: In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place FOR YOU. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And because it is by God’s grace, therefore, our inheritance has each redeemed child’s name on it and it shall never be taken away.

1 Peter 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an INHERITANCE incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven FOR YOU, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation READY TO BE REVEALED in the last time.

IV. WHAT IS OUR INHERITANCE?

Illustration: If you had lost your husband/wife or a son/daughter and were told you could have, on this earth right now, whatever you wanted—and one of the choices was that one you love more than any other then you would gladly trade everything else for that one you love so dearly. Well, just like that, Christ is the one believer love. He is the believers Husband and we his bride. The one thing we want more than anything else is Christ!

Christ is the inheritance of all the children of God. Christ has been allotted to us for our inheritance.

Lamentation 3: 24: The LORD is my portion, saith my soul.

Psalm 16:5: The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

Psalm 73:26: My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

The LORD gave us a picture of this in the Levites. They were the priests of God like as Christ has “loved us and washed us and made us kings and priests unto God and his Father.” (Rev 1: 5-6)

Among all the tribes in Israel, the Levites did not have the same inheritance in Canaan as the other tribes, they had a better inheritance.

Joshua 13:33: But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not *any* inheritance: the LORD God of Israel *was* their inheritance, as he said unto them.

And you know what the Lord Jesus Christ wants for his inheritance? His people, his bride. Just as Christ has been allotted to us, we have been allotted to Christ for his inheritance.

Deuteronomy 32:9: For the LORD’S portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance.

Psalm 2:8: Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

The heathen are his elect scattered in the four corners of the earth. We are the riches of his glory—his inheritance is his saints. That is what it says in the last phrase of verse 18:

Ephesians 1: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of HIS inheritance in the saints,

Viewing his saints as his inheritance, Christ sees us as we really are—complete in him, with all our sins washed away by his precious blood, made the righteousness of God—so when he looks upon us he sees “the riches of HIS GLORY—in his inheritance—in the saints.” He sees us as His fullness. So Christ says of his inheritance—of you and me, believer--"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." (Ps.16:6.)

Application: If his saints are that dear to him then we ought to treat one another as just that dear to us. That is why Paul prayed desiring for us to understand “the riches of his glory in his inheritance in his saints” so that we might treat each other as Christ’s precious inheritance.

Lastly, as far as what all our inheritance will include, we can only wait to see how great our inheritance will be. Right now, just think of the blessings we have:

- Eternal redemption
- Reconciliation to God
- Free justification from all our sins
- Forgiveness of all our sins
- The righteousness of Christ imputed to us
- Made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light
- And we could go on and on

Yet, as great as these blessings are to us, we haven’t seen anything yet. God says...

Ephesians 2: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the EXCEEDING riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:9: But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Revelation 21:3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and GOD HIMSELF SHALL BE WITH THEM, *and be* their God 4: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away....7: He that overcometh shall inherit ALL THINGS; and I will be his God, AND HE SHALL BE MY SON.

Every saint for whom Christ died shall then enjoy:

- Perfect communion with Christ
- Perfect commitment to Christ
- Perfect conformity to Christ forever.

These things I am speaking of are certain because his people are **“predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that we should be to the praise of his glory.”** No man has any excuse for not believing a God so good as our God. May God give us grace now to believe him.

Amen!