

Ephesians Series

Lesson #036

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Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**Are We Living in Light of Eternity?
Ephesians 1:14**

Eph. 1:14, “who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Eph. 1:14, “who [the Holy Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

ἀρραβών *arrabon*
masc sing nom
down payment, a
pledge guarantee,
paying the first
installment

κληρονομία
kleronomia
fem sing gen
inheritance,
possession,
property

1 Pet. 1:3, “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,

1 Pet. 1:4, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”

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Colossians 3:24, “[because you] know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Y’all serve the Lord Christ!” [~RD]

δουλεύω

douleuo

**2 plur pres act
impera**

**“to serve as a
slave”**

The Problem:

Some passages speak of inheritance as a *gift*, but others speak of it as a *reward*.

A gift is free.

A reward is earned.

1 Cor. 6:9, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1 Cor. 6:10, “nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Eph. 5:5, “For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Gal. 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal. 5:20, “idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Gal. 5:21, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

What the Bible Teaches About

Inheritance as Possession



1. The Old Testament teaches two aspects to inheritance.

- The inheritance to all which is not lost.**
- The inheritance to some based on obedience, which might be lost due to disobedience.**

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 - These are inheritance passages which emphasize the work of God, i.e., Eph. 1:14, 18; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4.**

1. The Old Testament teaches two aspects to inheritance.

- The inheritance to some based on obedience, which might be lost due to disobedience.**
- Col. 3:23–24; Eph. 5:5; Gal. 5:19–21; 1 Cor. 6:9–12; Luke 15:12–32**

2. Normally the elder received the double portion. But in the inheritance for the descendants of Abraham, the elder served the younger. But the younger did not lose all inheritance and blessing.

Ishmael lost the birthright, but not special blessing from Abraham (Gen. 25:6) or from God (Gen. 21:13).

Gen. 21:12, “But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

Gen. 21:13, “ ‘Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed.’ ”

Review:

Esau lost the birthright, Gen. 25:31–33, but God blessed him greatly, Gen. 33:9; 36:6–7

Reuben lost the birthright; Joseph received it, 1 Chron. 5:1–2

Manasseh lost the birthright to Ephraim, Gen. 48:17–19

Gen. 48:17, “Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father’s hand to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.

Gen. 48:18, “And Joseph said to his father, ‘Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.’

Gen. 48:19, “But his father refused and said, ‘I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.’ ”

3. The entire Exodus Generation had become God's firstborn son (Ex. 4:22–23), yet the entire generation with the exception of Caleb and Joshua forfeited the inheritance due the firstborn. God disinherited them, but they did not lose their salvation. They never entered the land. The blessing in time was given, but when they disobeyed at Kadesh Barnea, it was withdrawn.

Exodus 4:22, “Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.” ’ ”

4. Though not all have an inheritance in the land all have God as their inheritance and possession.

Psa. 73:26, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion [חֵלֶק (*hēleq*)] forever.”

Psa. 119:57, “The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Thy words.”

Psa. 142:5, “I cried out to Thee, O LORD; I said, ‘Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’ ”

5. Conclusion

Though not all have an inheritance in the land, all have God as their inheritance and possession.

Thus the Old Testament teaches two categories of inheritance:

- inheritance of God for all believers**
- an inheritance that is not for all believers**

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What the Bible Teaches About

Heirship



Is “inheritance” a synonym for receiving eternal life?

Is an inheritance earned, given, or both?

What exactly is the meaning of inheritance and what does it mean to “inherit the kingdom of God?”

1. Christ is the heir of all things.

Heb. 1:2, “in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

2. Heirship is based on Adoption, Sonship, therefore inheritance is related to positional truth.

Gal. 3:29, “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

3. Heirship is based on the grace promise of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Gal. 3:29, “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

4. Heirship demands eternal life, because the son must have the same life as the Father.

Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

Titus 3:6, “whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:7, “that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

5. Heirship means to share the destiny of Christ. Christ has an eternal destiny, we share it as we share His election.

Eph. 1:11, “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,”

6. Inheritance is both a present reality and a future possession.

1 Pet. 1:3, “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,

1 Pet. 1:4, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Pet. 1:5, “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Eph. 1:13, “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph. 1:14, “who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

7. Heirship means eternal security, an inheritance undefiled, Eph. 1:13–14.

1 Pet. 1:4, “to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Pet. 1:5, “who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

8. God the Holy Spirit is the downpayment on our inheritance, Gal. 4:6.

Gal. 4:6, “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ ”

Eph. 1:14, “who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

9. Conclusion. There are two categories of inheritance (Rom. 8:17):

- Inherit the kingdom, Eph. 5:5; 1 Cor. 6:9–10**
- Inherit salvation, Heb. 1:14**

**Romans 8:17, “and if children, then heirs --
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if
indeed we suffer with Him, that we may
also be glorified together.”**

Woman without her man is nothing

Woman, without her, man is nothing

Woman without her man, is nothing

Romans 8:17, “and if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Two types of heirs:

- **Heirs of God: all believers**
- **Joint heirs with Christ: for those who grow spiritually**

10. Just as Christ inherits the kingdom (Ps. 2:8–9) due to His loyalty to God the Father (Heb. 1:8–9 quoting Ps. 45:6–7) so will the joint heirs with Christ.

Heb. 1:8, “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.’”

Heb. 1:9, “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

**11. Difference between *living* and *reigning* with Christ is found in 2 Tim. 2.
Dying with Christ = Baptism of the Holy Spirit;
Reigning is based on endurance.**

2 Tim. 2:11, “It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;

2 Tim. 2:12, “If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;”

12. Thus the kingdom has been promised to those who love God, and not all believers love God. Love for God is expressed through obedience to God (John 14:21–24).

13. Illustration: Esau

Heb. 12:16, “that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Heb. 12:17, “For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”

Gen. 27:38, “And Esau said to his father, ‘Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.’ So Esau lifted his voice and wept.

Gen. 27:39, “Then Isaac his father answered and said to him, ‘Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, and away from the dew of heaven from above.

Gen. 27:40, “ ‘And by your sword you shall live, and your brother you shall serve; But it shall come about when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck.’ ”

*****Esau loses inheritance blessing, but not his position as Isaac's son and not all blessing from God.**