

CHRISTIANS AS HEIRS

Rom.8:16-18

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Of Christians, we mean those:
 - a. Who are of Christ; those who belong to Christ by right of purchase Ac.20:28; 1Cor.6:19,20; Eph.1:7; Col.1:13,14; 1Pet.1:18,19.
 - b. Who by faith have obeyed the gospel and have been baptized into Christ, Rom.6:3-6.
 - c. Who are faithful followers of Christ as his disciples, Jno.8:31,32.
 - d. Who are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, Gal.3:26,27.
2. By an heir, we mean:
 - a. A person who inherits or is entitled to inherit.
 - b. To inherit is to come into possession of a gift or a possession of some kind as an heir, or through inheritance, or has such awaiting them as their inheritance on certain conditions.
 - c. 1Pet.3:9; Ac.20:32; 26:18; Eph.1:11; Col.3:22-24; Heb.11:8.
 - d. Eph.1:12-14 – of which we are assured by means of “the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.” Cf. Gen.38:11-26 (emp.vv.16-20).
3. We shall emphasize the following N.T. truths concerning Christians as heirs.
 - a. Heirs as understood in our world, or in the social order of this world.
 - b. Under the N.T. Christians are said to be heirs of God.
 - c. Christians are assured of a variety of things of which they are heirs, or of the broad scope of their inheritance.
 - d. The N.T. tells us who it is that cannot inherit a blessing and why they can't.

II. DISCUSSION

A. HEIRS AS UNDERSTOOD IN OUR WORLD OR IN THE SOCIAL ORDER OF THIS WORLD.

1. Children, family and or friends and associates often receive an inheritance (included in an estate, by means of a will) from another
2. Thus one is said to be an heir or to have an inheritance, or to be a testator, or one who makes and leaves a will to legally dispose of his estate to his heirs.
3. While the testator, or the maker of the will, lives, the conditions of the will may be changed at any time by the testator – thus the living testator may change his will as he desires, when he desires,

to include or exclude whomever he desires on whatever conditions he desires.

4. Before a will is executed, there must be the death of the testator or the one making the will; after the death of the testator of the will and the legal probaton of the will, it is then to be executed according to the specific conditions set forth in the will.
5. According to the N.T. so it is with Jesus Christ as the mediator and testator of the N.T., Heb.9:11-17.

B. UNDER THE N.T. CHRISTIANS ARE SAID TO BE HEIRS OF GOD.

1. Christians are said to be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, Rom.8:16-18.
 - a. Take note that God hath appointed Jesus Christ heir of all things, Heb.1:1,2; Cf. Psa.2:8; Mt.28:18.
 - b. Therefore, Christians as heirs must be joint-heirs with Christ
 - c. There is no other way to inherit. Cf. Ac.4:12.
2. Thus Christians are said to be heirs of God through Christ, Gal.4:7.
3. As Christians, both Jews and Gentiles are “fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel, Eph.3:1-9; 2:11-22; 1:22,23; 4:1-6; Rom.1:14-17; 3:20-28; Gal.2:16; 3:26-29.
 - a. Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-41,47; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10.

C. CHRISTIANS ARE ASSURED OF A VARIETY OF THINGS OF WHICH THEY ARE HEIRS, OR OF THE BROAD SCOPE OF THEIR INHERITANCE.

1. They are heirs of salvation, Heb.1:14.
2. Heirs of righteousness, Heb.11:7-10; 2Tim.4:6-8.
3. Heirs of the everlasting kingdom, Mt.25:31-34; Jas.2:5; 2Pet.1:5-11.
4. Heirs of the grace of life or of eternal life, 1Pet.3:7; Mt.19:29; 1Pet.1:3-5,9.
 - a. Cf. Tit.3:7; Heb.9:15; Jas.1:12.
 - b. See Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.
 - c. “This is eternal life”: Jno.17:3; Rom.2:7,10; 8:16-18; 2Th.1:7,10; Mt.25:46b; Jno.5:28,29a; 1Jno.2:24,25.
Cf. Rom.2:8,9; 2Th.1:6,8,9; Mt.25:46a; Jno.5:28,29b.
 - d. Eternal life is not simply “eternal existence”
5. Heir of all things, Rev.21:7; Cf. Rom.8:28-32; 2Pet.1:3,4.

D. THE N.T. REVEALS WHO CANNOT INHRIT THE BLESSING AND WHY THEY CAN'T.

1. Those who seek to be justified by the law cannot, Gal.5:1-4.
2. The fulfillment of the promise to Abraham through his seed, who is Christ, and those who are Abraham's children by faith, was not be through the law of Moses, but the faith of Christ, Gal.3:7-29; Cf. Rom.4:13-25; 3:19-28; 10:1-3; Gal.2:16.
3. Those who walk after the flesh, that mind the things of the flesh or live after the flesh, shall die rather than live – thus cannot receive the blessing, Rom.8:1-13; 1Cor.6:9,10; Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:1-11; Col.3:1-6; Heb.12:14-17.
4. Those who believe not that Jesus is the Christ shall die in their sins rather than in Jesus; therefore, have no hope of life at the resurrection, Jno.8:24; 1Th.4:13,14; Cf. Heb.11:6; Mk.16:15,16; Jno.3:16-18,36.
5. Those not in Christ cannot inherit a blessing because all spiritual blessings are in Christ, Eph.1:3.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Friend, if you are to be an heir, an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ, be an heir of salvation, of righteousness, of the everlasting kingdom, of the grace of life or eternal life, or of all things, you must be a Christian, one who is in Christ; for apart from Him there is no inheritance for you.
2. But to be in Christ you must by faith be baptized into Christ in obedience to the gospel and by faith maintain that relationship with the Father and the Son, Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27; 1Jno.2:24,25; 1Jno.5:4; 1Cor.15:58; Rev.2:10.
3. This is the strait gate and narrow way that leadeth unto life, the one way; the only other way is the wide gate and broad way that leads to destruction, Mt.7:13,14.