

## ***OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST***

*(Ephesians 1:11-12)*

In his anthem of praise to God for His blessing of salvation, the Apostle Paul reminds the Ephesian believers of their glorious inheritance in Christ. Scriptures are replete with references to the reality of our divine inheritance. Romans 8:16-17 states that *"the Holy Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."* 1 Peter 1:3-4 says that in God's great mercy, *"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for us."* As we reflect on Paul's words in Ephesians 1:11-12, we will consider three features of our inheritance in Christ.

### ***1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Inheritance***

Our divine inheritance is another glorious blessing with which God has blessed us in Christ. As Paul points out, *"in Christ, we have obtained an inheritance"* (Eph. 1:11). Literally, it reads, *"in Christ, we have been allotted a portion."* Just as the Israelites were assigned land portions as their inheritance in Canaan (Joshua 13:6-7), so those of us who are in Christ become partakers of this divine inheritance which God has secured for us. Paul describes our inheritance as a divine gift which we receive by virtue of our union with Christ. A biblical survey of this great heritage reveals that (a) God Himself in our inheritance (Josh. 13:33; Psalm 16:5-6,11; 73:25-56); (b) God's eternal kingdom is our inheritance (Matt. 25:34; Luke 12:32; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27; 22:5; Dan. 7:27); (c) A glorified body is our inheritance (Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:42-44); (d) The fullness of eternal life with God is our inheritance (Rev. 21:1-4; 22:4).

### ***2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Inheritance***

Paul further explains the threefold ground of our divine inheritance. First, we have obtained our inheritance through God's provision in Christ (Eph. 1:11). We cannot possess this inheritance if God has not provided us with our Lord Jesus as our Redeemer who set us free from our enslavement to sin and brought us to a saving relationship with God (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:12-14). Second, we have obtained our inheritance in Christ through God's predestining purpose (Eph. 1:11). God Himself has predetermined our life's destiny which is to be His adopted children and His chosen heirs (Eph. 1:5,11). Third, we have obtained this great inheritance through God's powerful working (Eph. 1:11). God Himself works all things according to the counsel of His will to secure the possession of our divine inheritance (Eph. 1:11-13; Rom. 8:28; Phil. 1:6).

### ***3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Inheritance***

God's ultimate goal in saving us and blessing us with such great inheritance is the praise of His own glory (Eph. 1:6,12,14). The glory of God literally means the weightiness of God. It speaks of God's reputation, honor and splendor. God's glory is the revealed majesty of His divine worthiness. For all eternity, we will gratefully praise and joyfully worship our triune God for in Christ, we have obtained an inheritance so that we who hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:11-12).

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