

INHERITANCE AND PROMISE

Galatians 3:15-18

Brothers, according to *the standards of man* I will speak:

Even though *it is* only of man, the having been already ratified **testament**, no one annuls it or adds a codicil to it.

V16 NEXT POINT: FOCUS ON THE
PROMISE AND PURSUE THE
RECIPIENT

So to Abraham were spoken **the promises** and to his seed.

It does not say, “And to seeds,” as concerning many

But

as concerning one, “And to your Seed,”

Who is Christ.

V17: THE LAW VS. THE PROMISE

Now this I am saying:

The Law,

which came 430 years later,

does not make void a covenant

which had been ratified in advance by God
such that it invalidates the **promise.**

V18: STRENGTHENING THE ARGUMENT

For if from the **Law** *comes* the
Inheritance, *it is* no longer from
Promise!

But (Advancing the next point) to
Abraham through **promise** God has
freely given *it (the inheritance)*.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE?

**18 εἰ γὰρ ἐκ νόμου ἢ κληρονομία,
οὐκέτι ἐξ ἐπαγγελίας.
τῷ δὲ Ἀβραὰμ δι' ἐπαγγελίας κεχάρισται
ὁ θεός.**

WHAT IS THE SOURCE?

18 For if from the source of the Law *comes* the inheritance, then it is no longer from the source of promise.

But to Abraham through promise God freely gave *it*.



THEOLOGY IN INHERITANCE

1. God requires Righteous obedience.
2. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, has obeyed fully.
3. Therefore all the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant will be received only in relationship to Him.
4. This is HOW God promised the blessings of inheritance to Abraham without there being a Law.
5. Correlation: Inheritance of the blessings already set up in your portfolio depends upon obedience.
6. **Yet we still do not deserve the inheritance even if we obey!**
7. The inheritance is laid up for us in Christ.

8. Just as Christ is the Heir of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Fulfillment of the Law, so we receive God's blessings through believing God's Promise concerning salvation in Christ and then an abiding faith that produces faithful obedience.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF INHERITANCE

- KLERONOMIA (klhronomia)
- The Parable of the Landowner: Mt 21:38, Mk 12:7, Lk 20:14
- Lk 12:13: Inheritance in English
- Acts 7:5: Abraham and the inheritance
- Acts 20:32: Inheritance and the Believer in Jesus Christ

ACTS 20:32

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build and give the klhronomia among all who are being sanctified."

PAUL'S TEACHING OF CHURCH AGE INHERITANCE

- Believers are being set apart for inheritance in Christ.
- This has everything to do with sanctification or being set apart unto God.
- The sanctification process of a believer is through the WORD of God.
- The Word builds up the believer.
- The Word gives the inheritance.

INHERITANCE IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

- Gal 3:18—teaching concerning Abraham's inheritance.
- Eph 1:14 The Holy Spirit
- Eph 1:18 To Be Gained Through Epignosis
- Eph 5:5: The Warning
- Col 3:24 Motivates all work

INHERITANCE IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

- Gal 3:18—teaching concerning Abraham's inheritance.

εἰ γὰρ ἐκ νόμου ἡ κληρονομία, οὐκέτι ἐξ ἐπαγγελίας· τῷ δὲ Ἀβραὰμ δι' ἐπαγγελίας κεχάρισται ὁ θεός.

For if from the source of the Law *comes* the inheritance, no longer from the source of promise; but God to Abraham through promise has graciously given *it*.

PRINCIPLE: 1

- God's blessing of inheritance for Abraham, which sets the pattern for all inheritance, is not based on human obedience but Divine faithfulness.
- Yet as we observe the life of Abraham, individual receipt of inheritance blessings does depend on individual obedience.
- Why? Obedience demonstrates the capacity to glorify God with our decisions.

EPH 1:14: THE HOLY SPIRIT

ὁ ἔστιν ἄρραβὼν τῆς κληρονομίας ἡμῶν, εἰς ἀπολύτρωσιν τῆς περιποιήσεως, εἰς ἔπαινον τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ.

Who is a pledge/downpayment of our inheritance, towards the redemption of the possession (God's), unto the praise of His glory.

PRINCIPLE #2

- The **beginning** of inheritance blessings for the Church Age Believer is the indwelling ministry of God the Holy Spirit.
- He is in you to produce the change of character that corresponds to your redemption in Christ and to enable you to glorify God.
- Why? Inheritance is about glorifying God with our decisions

EPH 1:18: TO BE GAINED THROUGH EPIGNOSIS

πεφωτισμένους τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τῆς
καρδίας [ὑμῶν] εἰς τὸ εἰδέναι ὑμᾶς τίς
ἐστὶν ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς κλήσεως αὐτοῦ, τίς ὁ
πλοῦτος τῆς δόξης τῆς κληρονομίας
αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς ἀγίοις,

Because the eyes of your heart have been
enlightened

unto the goal of you **knowing**

what is the Hope of your calling,

what are the glorious riches of His
inheritance in the saints...

NET BIBLE EPH 1:17-19

What

How

On What
Basis

Why

I pray that:

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give you spiritual
wisdom and revelation

in (through) your growing knowledge
(epignosis) of him,

– since the eyes of your heart have been
enlightened –

so that you may know ⁽¹⁾what is the hope of
his calling, ⁽²⁾what is the wealth of his
glorious inheritance in the saints, and
⁽³⁾what is the incomparable greatness of
his power toward us who believe, as
displayed in the exercise of his immense
strength.

PRINCIPLE #3

- The blessing Paul prays for the Ephesian believers is spiritual wisdom and revelation.
- This comes through useable knowledge of God, to which believers have access.
- Spiritual wisdom and revelation produce knowledge in three categories: hope, inheritance, and God's ability to bring both to completion
- Why? Your spiritual life of faith and obedience depends on your motivation.

EPH 5:5: THE WARNING

**οὗτο γὰρ ἴστε γινώσκοντες, ὅτι πᾶς πόρνος ἢ
ἀκάθαρτος ἢ πλεονέκτης, ὃ ἐστὶν εἰδωλολάτρης,
οὐκ ἔχει κληρονομίαν ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ
καὶ θεοῦ.**

For this you must know for certain: that no
fornicator or unclean person or covetous
person, who is an idolater has inheritance in
the Kingdom of Christ and God.

PRINCIPLE #4

- It is possible to forfeit one's inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.
- This is through the selection of a lifestyle that identifies you with sin rather than your new life in Christ.
- The warning is to believers, who are supposed to be maturing in their spiritual lives.
- Why? No capacity to rule in +R

COL 3:24: MOTIVATION TO WORK

είδότες ὅτι ἀπὸ κυρίου ἀπολήμψετε τὴν ἀνταπόδοσιν τῆς κληρονομίας. τῷ κυρίῳ Χριστῷ δουλεύετε·

Whatever you do, *do it* from the soul as unto the Lord and not as unto man,

Because **you know** that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the Inheritance. The Lord Christ you serve.

PRINCIPLE #5

- Do everything in life as unto the Lord.
- This life of worship or faith-producing-faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ will be rewarded from His inheritance.
- We **know** of these rewards so that we will be motivated by them to do everything as unto the Lord.
- Why? We glorify God by being blessed by Him.

HEB 9:15: RELATING INHERITANCE TO REDEMPTION

And because of this He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that, because a death occurred unto redemption of the transgressions upon the first Covenant, the Promise they might receive, those who have been called, of the eternal inheritance.

HEB 9:15

And because of this He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that those who have been called might receive the Promise of the eternal inheritance because a death occurred for the redemption of the transgressions against the first covenant.

PRINCIPLE #6: SALVATION AND INHERITANCE

- The eternal inheritance of the Promise to Abraham can only be secured through the redemption work of Jesus Christ at the Cross.
- Therefore the major obstacle to receiving the inheritance is sin.
- No one inherits the Promise unless he is saved.

HEB 11:8: THE PROMISE OF INHERITANCE AND FAITH

**By faith, when he was called, Abraham obeyed by going out to a place which he was destined to receive for an inheritance,
and he went out not knowing where he was going!**

PRINCIPLE #7: FAITH PRODUCES FAITHFULNESS

- Abram's obedience to God's command regarding the Promise, (Gen 12), is the demonstration of his faith.
- The kind of faith required for him to receive his inheritance is dangerous!
- By taking God at His word, Abram was open to the relationship God is looking for.

1 PETER 1:4: THE GOAL OF YOUR
SALVATION IS RECEIVING YOUR
INHERITANCE

**4 εἰς κληρονομίαν ἄφθαρτον καὶ
ἀμίαντον καὶ ἀμόραντον, τετηρημένην
ἐν οὐρανοῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς**

Unto the incorruptible, undefiled,
unfading **inheritance**, which has
been reserved/guarded in Heaven
for you

IN CONTEXT, 1 PET 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 unto an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

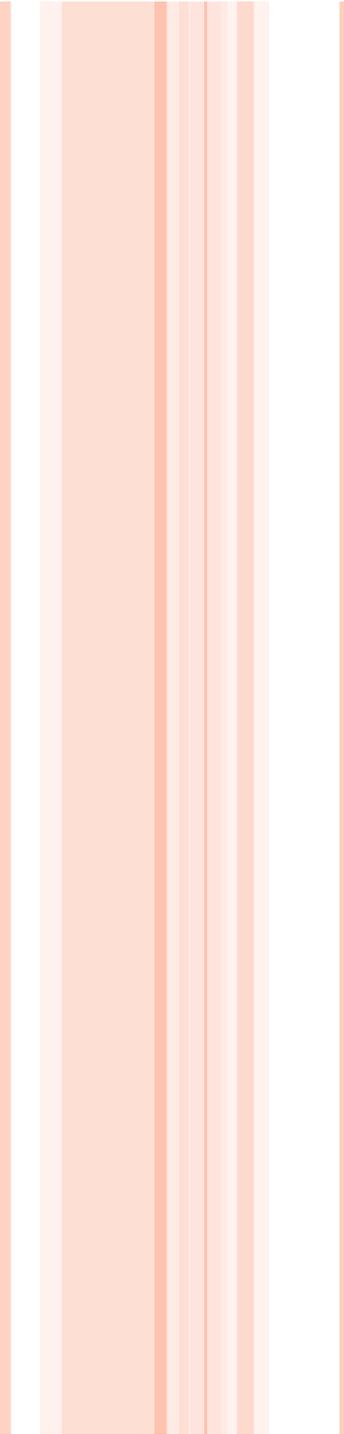
5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

PRINCIPLE #8: GOD'S PURPOSE IN SALVATION

- God's purpose in saving you is to bless you with your inheritance in Heaven.
- This is the universal *goal* of salvation.
- However, apparently there will not be uniform experience of inheritance rewards for those who are saved. (2 Cor 5:10).

A STUDY OF THE VERB FORM: klhronomew

- klhronomew: a verb, “to inherit”
- 18X in NT
- Mt 5:5, 19:29, 25:34
- Mk 10:17
- Lk 10:25, 18:18
- 1 Cor 6:9, 10, 15:50
- Gal 4:30, 5:21
- Heb 1:4, 14, 6:12, 12:17
- 1 Pet 3:9
- Rev 21:7



JESUS' TEACHINGS ON INHERITING ETERNAL LIFE

INHERITING IN MATTHEW: THE EARTH, ETERNAL LIFE, AND THE KINGDOM

- **Mt 5:5:** Sermon on the Mount, the Gentle will Inherit the Earth
- **Mt 19:29:** Inheriting Eternal Life for leaving family
- **Mt 25:34:** Inheritance of the Kingdom at the separation of sheep from goats in the 2nd Advent

IS THERE CORRELATION BETWEEN THESE INHERITANCES? YES.

- The **Kingdom** of God on **Earth** is an **eternal** Kingdom. 2 Sam 7:13, etc.
 - Nature: God's
 - Location: Earth
 - Duration: Forever
- One who inherits the eternal Kingdom will need an eternal kind of life.
- Therefore at least we can say that the inheritance of the Kingdom and the inheritance of Eternal Life will be contemporaneous once the Kingdom is established and so inherited.
- The **point of time** in which this will take place is prophetically referenced in Mt 25, when Jesus comes back in the Second Advent “in His glory and all the angels with Him”—v31.
- This brings us back to Gal 3:16, the Seed must first inherit.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER: A QUESTION FROM AN “HEIR” ABOUT REAL INHERITANCE

- **Mk 10:17** *As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”*
- **Lk 18:18** *A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”*

THE RICH YOUNG RULER: MARK 10:17-31

- **Immediate context:** The HUMILITY of Faith (vv14-15_
- **RYR's Initial question:** What must I do to inherit eternal life?
- **Jesus' Initial response (SURPRISE!):**
 - 1) To Whom are you speaking?
 - 2) You already know the answer in the Law (right?)
- **RYR Self-Justifies:** I'm good to go on the Law.
- **Jesus Invalidates:** You are relying on your money and are convinced it proves you are righteous
- **RYR Rejects:** Saddened and went away grieving
- **Jesus Evaluates:** It is hard for a wealthy man to enter the Kingdom of God.

- **Disciples Respond:** Astonishment, bewilderment = confusion
- **Jesus Reiterates:** CHILDREN (cf vv14-15!), entrance into the Kingdom is impossible for the most capable human beings you can think of –**rich people!**
- **The Disciples' Respond:** Greater astonishment = confusion, “**Who can be saved?**” Now the issue is focused merely on *entrance*, not *inheritance*.
- **Jesus Answers:** Only God can save, but with people it is impossible. **This is the grace message in Salvation or *entrance* into the Kingdom.**
- **Peter Redirects:** But we have fulfilled your stated requirement for *INHERITANCE!*
- **Jesus ASSURES:** An investment in the Kingdom is the best possible investment.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

- **Luke 10:25** *And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”*

THE GOOD SAMARITAN: LUKE 10:25-37

- **The Lawyer's Intent:** To put Jesus to the test.
- **The Lawyer's Question:** What must I DO to inherit Eternal Life?
- **Jesus Answers with a Question:** What is written in the Law? How do you read it?
- **The Lawyer Answers Jesus' Question:**
 - Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18:
 - ajgapaw (agapa-w) of God and neighbor, cf Mt 5:20-48.
- **Jesus Validates the Answer:** Lev 18:5 (cf. Gal 3:12). **Now, who actually does this perfectly? Jesus Christ. ONLY!**
- **The Lawyer's Self-justification:** WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

○ **Jesus Responds with a PARABLE:**

- A man stripped, beaten, left for dead on the way to Jericho from Jerusalem
- Priest—passed by on the other side
- Levite—passed by on the other side
- SAMARITAN!!!—he “felt compassion” – splagcnizomai, “hey, man, have a some intestines crying out loud!”
 - Applied first aid
 - Took him to the “hospital”
 - Paid down on his “medical bills” and promised to pay the remainder whatever it would be.

○ **Jesus challenges the Lawyer based on the Parable:** *“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor...?”*

- **The Lawyer answers correctly:** “The one who showed mercy toward him.”
- **Jesus Concludes with a Completely New Tack:**
 - “Go and do the same.”
 - YOU be a neighbor, don’t worry about who is your neighbor.

WORKS FOR SALVATION? No.

- Every passage presents **works** that the person should do in order to *inherit* eternal life.
- The questions regarding *inheritance* are answered with injunctions to good works.
- Rich young ruler:
 - Overall Principle: Give up everything you have to inherit everything you want.
- Good Samaritan:
 - Who is *my* neighbor?
 - You BE a neighbor.

minimum
maximum