

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #11- Entering Or Entering & Inheriting?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "The emphasis on cheap grace has disseminated a casualness toward our commitments to our Savior. We enjoy our get-out-of-hell-free-card with no real awareness of the coming events and how they will involve us after the Rapture. Most have little concern over the likelihood of intense disappointment when they do "get to heaven."

Rev. 3:14-22 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'— and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

What Is The Purpose Of My Sufferings? Prove My Sonship: To Profit Me

Heb. 12:8, 10 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

The Ultimate Significance of Human Life

Question: Why am I here? Why did God save me? What is God's purpose in calling me?

God's Original Purpose: Man's Intended & Original Royal Position

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Man was originally created in the image of God and called to reign over the whole earth.

(Presented to 1st Adam + His Bride)

God's Purpose In Saving Us & Calling Us:

1. Place us back in the position for which we were originally created - to be "joint-heirs" with Christ ruling and reigning with Him over the earth as His bride. [Gen. 1:26]

2. Problem: Lucifer was determined to thwart God's plan. He devised a scheme to deceive Eve which also led Adam's to disobedience. God's purpose was not fulfilled. 1st Adam Failed

3. God has determined to accomplish this purpose in the Millennium where man will finally occupy a regal position over a restored earth. [Acts 3:21]

4. Ruling & reigning with Christ is the mark or goal of the high calling of Christ. [Phil. 3:10-14]

5. God seeks our fellowship, communion & love. He wants to dwell among us.

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Beliefs: 1. His is a LITERAL Kingdom that will exist on earth for 1000 years when Jesus will rule and reign over the world.

2. The Life of Faith [The just shall LIVE BY FAITH] is intended to lead us to Divinely Ordered Preparation for rulership in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

3. "Rule and Reign" = hold positions of authority or responsibility that Christ will entrust to us

4. Christ's call to all justified believers is to be conformed to His image. [Rom. 8:29]

5. My life here [being sanctified] is the training ground, the proving ground and the testing ground for my future life there.

6. My obedience to sanctification after I am justified dramatically affects my role, my position and my place in the future reign of Jesus Christ.

7. We must embrace our God-ordained adversities, trials and tribulations as a means to train us for ruling with Him in His Kingdom. We must become a PARTAKER OF Christ's Life.

8. The life I live now will have unchangeable consequences in the coming Millennial Kingdom Of Jesus Christ.

9. Our rewards and place in His Kingdom will either be won or lost according to our faithfulness and obedience in this life.

10. We must see our life now in the context of eternity.

11. All justified believers will be with Christ in His coming Kingdom, but only ones who have been obedient to sanctification and are choosing to follow Christ will INHERIT levels of responsibility in His Kingdom.

D.L. Moody: "I have an idea that we are down here in training, that God is just polishing us for some higher service." [The Overcoming Life]

Consider: The subject of my future inheritance in Christ's Millennial Kingdom is a major theme in God's Word. There are ~1518 verses in the Old Testament and hundreds in the New that speak about His coming kingdom and the importance of my being able To Inherit It.

Consider: The Bible speaks of inherit or inheritance in 2 ways.

1. Strong's 2816 = kleronomeo = Inheritance By Birth or Sonship Inheritance

a. This inheritance belongs to me simply because I am a born again child of God and I am an heir.

b. I am justified, the Holy Spirit of God resides in me. I have God Himself as my inheritance.

Gal. 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

c. This sonship inheritance is unconditional and automatic. I will always be a son.

d. This inheritance is a free gift - NO WORKS.

e. This inheritance GUARANTEES me eternal Life; open to all who will accept it. [Eph. 1:11, 14]

f. This inheritance gives me entrance to His Kingdom.

2. Strong's 2817 = kleronomia = Inheritance From The Lord

- a. Given by the Lord because of faithfulness, obedience and perseverance
- b. Earned inheritance [meritorious reward] which entitles one to positions, rewards, authority and blessings in the Millennial Kingdom

Col. 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the Reward Of The Inheritance; For You Serve The Lord Christ.

c. This inheritance is conditional because there are requirements.

Rev. 2:26 he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations

Rev. 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Recall My Belief: People who are justified ENTER the Kingdom.

People who are justified and obedient to sanctification ENTER and INHERIT the kingdom.

SALVATION- Sonship Inheritance	REWARDS-Inheritance From The Lord
Past - I John 3:2	Future - Rev. 22:12
Free - Eph. 2:8-9	Earned - I Cor. 3:8
Can't Be Lost - John 10:28-29	Can Be Lost - II John 1:8
Same For All - Rom. 3:22	Differ Among Christians - I Cor. 3:12-15
For Those Who Believe - John 3:16	For Those Who Work - I Cor. 9:27

Old Testament Scriptures > Requirements For An Inheritance In The Land

Remember: Inheriting the Land in the OT is a picture of Inheriting the Kingdom in the NT.

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

I Cor. 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1. Deut. 6:18 "IF they [Israelites] do what is good and right, THEN they will not only go into the land, but also POSSESS it."
2. Deut. 19:9-10 "IF they shall keep the commandment, THEN they will INHERIT the cities and the land."
3. Deut. 11:22-33 "IF you shall DILIGENTLY KEEP all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to cleave unto Him, THEN will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and you shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves."

New Testament Scriptures > Requirements For An Inheritance From The Lord

1. Matt. 24:43, 47 IF we are FAITHFUL, THEN He will make us RULER over all His goods.
2. II Tim. 2:5, 12 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. IF we SUFFER [ENDURE], THEN we shall REIGN with Him.
3. James 2:5 IF we LOVE Him, we will be HEIRS of His Kingdom.
4. Heb. 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great REWARD.

Conclusion: "Inheritance from the Lord," [in OT & NT] is always conditioned upon behavior.

1. ALL Christians are sons of God and possess the free gift of an Inheritance By Birth that can NEVER be lost.
2. Christ pardons us and purchases us in a moment of time. He imputes His righteousness to us at our justification.
3. Not all Christians will receive an "Inheritance From The Lord" because this appears to be earned by faithfulness, obedience and perseverance.
4. I believe much is required to prepare justified believers for His Kingdom.
5. After our justification, the Holy Spirit spends the rest of our lives cleansing, renewing and sanctifying us for positions in the coming Kingdom.
6. Sanctification is NOT AUTOMATIC. I must humble myself and surrender to the process which can only be done by the Holy Spirit working in me through the active, living Word of God.

Tony Evans: "There are Christians who have been set free from spiritual bondage, but who will never enjoy the full right and privileges they could have inherited in the coming kingdom. That's because these benefits accrue to believers based on their faithfulness to Christ here on earth. Inheritance from the Lord [co-reigning with Him] is earned; whereas, sonship is not."

Difference Between Entering The Kingdom & Inheriting The Kingdom

Remember: We cannot lose our eternal life, but we can lose or forfeit our position in His Kingdom.

Consider: All justified believers will DWELL in the Kingdom. Not all justified believers will Inherit Or Rule in the Kingdom.

1. Strong's 1525 = We enter or come into the kingdom because of our new birth and because we have received God's Spirit.
2. Strong's 2817 = We inherit the kingdom [obtain, possess or receive it] as a reward for an obedient and faithful life here on earth; partakes of Christ's life; lives as overcomer This is the "PRIZE" for surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit in us to mold us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Consider: These examples clearly show us the distinction between simply being in the land and inheriting or owning the land. Owning the land was a reward for faithfulness and obedience. Owning the land is compared to the "rest of God" or the Millennial Kingdom.

A. Abraham was guaranteed the land by an oath, [Gen. 15:18] but he only obtained or possessed the land by spiritual obedience. Gen. 17:1-2 I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." The appropriation of the blessing was conditional upon his obedience.

B. Joshua and Caleb were given the land because they obediently followed God and finished the work that had been given them.

Ponder: We must be DILIGENT to finish the work God gives us here on earth so we can enter into His rest [possess the kingdom.]

Examples Of Forfeiture Of Inheritance:

A. Esau forfeited his birthright and his blessings because of disobedience. He did not lose his sonship. [Gen.27:35-40; Heb. 12:16-17]

B. Reuben [I Chron. 5:1] defiled his father's bed; his firstborn birthright was taken away from him and given to the priesthood of Levi. He still retained his sonship.

C. 2 million Israelite believers who were to inherit the blessings of the Promised Land

1. They failed to do so because of their disobedience and lack of faith.

2. They were saved because they had applied the blood on the doorposts of their homes.

3. They failed to receive their INHERITANCE and go into the Promised Land [foreshadow of Millennial Kingdom] due to doubt, disobedience and unfaithfulness.

4. Only Caleb & Joshua inherited the land and the blessings from God.

Scripture gives us Warnings And Admonitions: Your Inheritance Is A Treasure:

1. II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.

2. James 1:22 Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, **DECEIVING** your own selves.

3. Luke 6:46 Why call Me Lord, if you don't **DO** the things I tell you?

4. I Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

Note: We must **CHOOSE** to be sanctified.

5. Heb. 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

6. Heb. 10:35-36 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Note: The **FIVE WARNINGS** in Hebrews are about the possibility of believers losing their reward of inheritance from God: **NOT THEIR SONSHIP!**

7. Rev. 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things,...

8. Rev. 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

9. Rev. 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

10. I John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Judgment	Time	Relationship
Condemnation To New Life	Past -Regeneration	As A Sinner
Discipline Or Rewards	Present - Sanctification	As A Son
Loss Or Rewards	Future - Glorification	As A Steward

I Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is Required In Stewards, [those who have been given a trust] that a man be found FAITHFUL.

Donald G. Barnhouse "All believers will be in heaven, but the differences will be eternal. We may be sure that the consequences of our character will survive the grave and that we will face those consequences at the Judgment Seat of Christ."

Martin Luther "There are only two days on my calendar: today and 'that day.'"

Question: Can I forfeit my inheritance from God and be disqualified for a position in His Kingdom?

1. I Cor. 3:13-15 every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, He Shall Suffer Loss: But He Himself Shall Be Saved; yet so as by fire.

2. I believe this refers to believers who are justified and enter heaven [eternal security], but they lose their reward of inheritance. [have been given positionally]

Col. 3:24 knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

3. Paul wrote in I Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth THE PRIZE? So run, that ye may obtain [that prize].

4. I Cor. 9:27 but I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway [disqualified].

New Testament Differentiates Between Gift and Prize:

1. Gift = something that is bestowed freely upon someone = Our Justification

2. Prize = something that is gained through some performance = Our Sanctification

Remember: Paul in Phil. 3:12-15 is PRESSING toward the mark for the PRIZE. This PRIZE Must Be Sought After In The Power Of The Holy Spirit. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I Press Toward The Goal For The Prize Of The Upward Call Of God In Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;

My Conclusion: The Prize is co-reigning with Christ; inheriting His Kingdom; the "reward of inheritance." It's enjoying the blessings, intimacy and the rest God has planned for those who love him. I Cor. 2:9 What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed]. - Amplified Bible

Question: Should A Believer Be Motivated By Eternal Rewards?

1. Heb. 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

2. I Cor. 9:24-25 Run [your race] in such a way that you may seize the prize *and* make it yours! ²⁵ Now every athlete who [goes into training and] competes in the games is disciplined *and* exercises self-control in all things. They do it to win a crown that withers, but we [do it to receive] an imperishable [crown that cannot wither].

II Cor. 5:9-10 Therefore, whether we are at home [on earth] or away from home [and with Him], it is our [constant] ambition to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we [believers will be called to account and] must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid for what has been done in the body, whether good or bad [that is, each will be held responsible for his actions, purposes, goals, motives—the use or misuse of his time, opportunities and abilities].

II Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying *and* wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. ¹⁷ For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!],

II Tim. 4:7-8 I have fought the good (worthy, honorable, and noble) fight, I have finished the race, I have kept (firmly held) the faith. ⁸ [As to what remains] henceforth there is laid up for me the [victor's] crown of righteousness [for being right with God and doing right], which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me *and* recompense me on that [great] day—and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved *and* yearned for *and* welcomed His appearing (His return).

My Resolve: May I allow God to carry me on to maturity and fitness for ruling with Him in His coming Kingdom as I rightly respond to my circumstances and adversities of my present life.

Rom. 8:18 For I reckon [count on as true] that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."