

Kingdom Inheritance

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House of Christ's Love

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Pray for the message

Today we continue in our series on the Kingdom of God and we're going to be talking about the idea of Kingdom Inheritance.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:34, that when the Son of man returns He will separate people to his right and to his left and then say to those on His right, *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."*

Friends, this evening, I want you to know that there is an inheritance waiting for you!!! (Turn to the person next to you and say to them, "there is an inheritance waiting for you!") It's the simple truth of the gospel! God has prepared it since before the Creation of this world and he wants you and I to take what is ours. But there's a condition...we need to make sure that when Christ separates us, we find ourselves on His right side. Because the inheritance is only for those who are placed on His right side. And we get on His right side by understanding and applying John 3:16 to our lives. "for God so LOVED the WORLD, that He gave us His only Son, and **that Whosoever BELIEVES in Him** (accepts, lives for, serves), will NOT PERISH (will not die!!!!!!), BUT have EVERLASTING LIFE!!" (eternal life, a piece of the inheritance...**IF we believe in Him!**)

The choice is up to us. God will not force us to make the choice to believe in Him. We have free will and the freedom to ultimately choose our own destiny. I'm sure you are like me and know of friends and family members, or others who are not in a relationship with Christ. And when we read or hear statements like this, it can really be problematic in our heart and in our mind because we can't even begin to think that a loving God would allow anyone to spend eternity in hell just because they don't believe in Him. But here's the deal, we can't put the blame on God for the choices that others make regarding their personal relationship with Christ. Christ desperately wants all of us to not only be in a relationship with Him while here on earth, but to share in the inheritance He has planned for us for eternity! He doesn't wish that anyone would perish and live eternally in hell. But, there will be those who choose to do exactly that. It's sad, it doesn't make us feel good, but it's their choice, not God's.

And so for you and I today, I want us to make sure that we will be able to "TAKE the inheritance" that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 25. Some of you may have been walking with Christ for a long time, and this message will give you some assurance of your rightful inheritance. Others of you here today.....maybe you're not sure if you would be able to take the inheritance that Christ offers to you at

the day of judgement. Maybe today is the day that you settle that issue, and you too, can prepare yourself to take the inheritance.

Friends, remember that none of us are here by accident today. This message will speak to each one of us if we have an open heart and an open mind and allow God to speak into our lives.

Let's take a brief look today as to what this inheritance looks like for us...and it's real simple and perhaps even more of a devotional thought for us today....

1. The Inheritance means ownership

Our inheritance means more than just "making it to heaven." I wonder sometimes if the only reason why we do the "Jesus thing" is to make sure that we cover ourselves and protect ourselves from spending eternity in hell? I wonder if sometimes we just use Jesus as some "LIFE insurance"? I think that when we approach our spiritual life like that, we very easily can find ourselves doing the least amount possible for Christ...just to cover ourselves.

III. If we owned our own business, and approached it from the perspective that we can get by with doing the least amount possible, it wouldn't be too long before the business fails. We might have been able to last for a little while, and to look good for a while, but at the end of the journey, we are going to have to look at ourselves in the mirror and recognize that we didn't do everything that we could to make the business a success. Successful businesses have owners that are giving it 100%.....every day!!!

The same needs to be true for you and I in our spiritual life.....we can't get by with just doing the least amount possible.....that's called cheap grace. We have to give it 100% every day!!!! Why? Because our inheritance requires it.

Jesus said in [Matthew 7:21](#) - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he **who does the will of my Father **who** is in heaven."** There are some requirements and some sense of ownership that needs to take place for each one of us.

The writer of Hebrews offers a similar thought in 4:1 – "therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it."

For any of us who want the inheritance that Christ offers us, it's time to make sure that we are taking ownership of our spiritual lives and assuring ourselves of the full inheritance that is being offered. Don't give in to the cultural perspective that all you need to do is the least amount possible. God wants more from all of us..

2. The Inheritance is for finishers

In order to get the inheritance, we need to make it to the place to receive it. We need to finish the race that is set out before us. The issue is not just how well we are doing in the Christian race, the issue is finishing! We will fail in our spiritual lives from time to time, and we'll make some choices that God is

perhaps not pleased with, but we can't let that keep us down.....we have to get up and get back in the race so that we can finish and enjoy all the rights and privileges of our inheritance.

We have to get our eyes on the prize which is spending eternity in heaven!!

III. A Few years ago in my church we had a few of our people run in the Philadelphia Marathon and they had been training for this over the last few weeks and months and I'm going to assume that after all that training and miles that they have run in order to prepare for this event, that their goal is to finish the race. I don't think that they would have gone through all the training and all the preparation just so that they could run a few miles and call it quits, pack up and come back home. Their intent is to finish the race!! They may not come in first, but the real victory is finishing.

The same is true for you and I as well as we talk about this idea of our inheritance.....we have to train, and prepare, and we have to finish.....we may not finish before Mother Theresa or Billy Graham, but the inheritance is ours if we finish!!

Paul has written a few things about this race that I want to share with you. He says in [1 Corinthians 9:24](#) – “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize”.

He says in [Acts 20:24](#) **that he considers his life worth** nothing, “if only that he might finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to him.”

And then in 2 Timothy 4:7 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

The inheritance will come when we finish the race!

3. The Inheritance is a reward

Colossians 3:23-24 – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that **you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward**. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

We need to work for the Lord because He's the one who holds our inheritance. Tony Evans writes about this in his book, *The Kingdom Agenda*, “Salvation is free, inheritance costs. If you and I are going to get all that God has for us in this life and become owners in the kingdom in the next life, it will be because God gave us our inheritance, which you can only get if you finish. And you must do that by faithful obedience to God and His Word.”

1 John 3:18 that I believe is appropriate for us today to consider..... ¹⁸“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” We can't just be bystanders to our faith. We have to be participants.

James 2:20 – “Faith without works is dead”...this means that our faith is useless..ineffective, worthless, without life if not accompanied by works.

We can't really say that we have faith if we're not doing anything for the kingdom. And if we aren't doing anything for the kingdom, we won't finish the race.....and if we don't finish the race, we won't inherit all of what God has planned for us!

We must act in faith if we are to receive the inheritance that God has promised to us.

4. The Inheritance will be evaluated

There is a standard that we must meet in order to receive the inheritance. I didn't put them in your notes, but I want to encourage you to write some thoughts down from this passage.....

*Paul lays it right out there for us in Colossians 1:9-14 –“ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: **bearing fruit** in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God**, ¹¹**being strengthened with all power** according to his glorious might so that you may **have great endurance and patience**, and **joyfully** ¹²**giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified you^[a] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption,^[b] the forgiveness of sins.*

Friends, do you want your inheritance? It can be yours but the choice is up to you.

Pray - Jesus said in John 3:3 - "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.^[a]"

Offer an opportunity to enter into a relationship with Christ.....