

RECEIVE YOUR INHERITANCE

In West Texas is a famous oil field known as the Yates Pool. During the Depression, this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates was not able to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family, like many others, had to live on government subsidy. Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would be able to pay his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told Mr. Yates there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease contract.

At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, thirty years after the discovery, a government test on one of the wells showed that it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day.

And Mr. Yates owned it all! The day he purchased the land he received the oil and mineral rights. Yet he was living on relief. A multi-millionaire living in poverty! The problem? He did not know the oil was there. **He owned it, but he did not possess it.** -Adapted from the Book Transferable Concepts by Bill Bright, Co-founder of Campus Crusade For Christ (now known as CRU)

The Lord's purpose in our emphasis on 'receiving' is to remind all of us of the great inheritance we have **'In Christ'**. We live like spiritual paupers unless we receive and possess the riches we have in the kingdom of God. The phrase **In Christ** or its equivalent is found 172 times in the New Testament. The apostle Paul used that term 97 times in his letters. Jesus is the source of every blessing we have.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now **hidden with Christ** in God. - Colossians 3:2-3

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. - Colossians 2:3

For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.
- Colossians 2:9-10

He (Jesus) came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. - John 1:11-12 NIV

When we receive Jesus and believe in him, he gives us **'the legal right'** to become children of God. - John 1:12. (children = teknon/ this emphasizes the fact that God gave us new birth) What a privilege to be a child of the King! The majority of people in the world do not have this relationship. The apostle John knew that he was loved by Jesus and revealed it in the following words that he wrote:

'Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper....) - John 21:20

John uses the word **'dear children'** several times in his letter of 1 John (2:1,12,28; 3:7,18; 4:4 and 5:21) It is the Greek word 'teknon' which is 'little children'. It is a term of **affection and tender appeal**. John knew he was loved by God and wants to remind us that we are too!

‘How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!’ - 1 John 3:1 NIV

The apostle Paul had a great revelation of God’s love and wanted to remind believers of it. Ephesians is a letter filled with the riches of our inheritance. Father God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing in Christ**. - Ephesians 1:3

Who leaves unopened presents around the Christmas tree? No one. When I was a young boy we were not allowed to open any gifts until Christmas morning. However, I do remember one Christmas when we were allowed to choose one gift that we could open one Christmas eve. We all remember the excitement and joy of opening special gifts from those who love us. When we look under another tree, the cross of calvary, we find special gifts that God purchased for us because of the death of his son. Here is one.

‘...he has made us accepted in the Beloved’ - Ephesians 1:6

This is the same word the angel spoke to Mary, the future mother of Jesus at the time. He told her that she was **‘highly favored’**.

Accepted = charitoo

- 1. to make graceful, charming, lovely, agreeable**
- 2. to peruse with grace, compass with favor**
- 3. to honor with blessings - NAS New Testament Greek lexicon**

I was happy when I opened my Christmas presents, but I also noticed how it seemed to please my parents. They had the joy of giving and watched with delight as their gifts were received and enjoyed. How much more does it bring God great pleasure when his children open their hearts to receive his precious gifts. He is especially pleased when he sees we finally get it, that he truly loves and cherishes us. We are his dear children.

If anybody asks how you are, you might reply to them: **HIGHLY FAVORED!** God has given us himself and his love, but there is so much more to our inheritance. In actuality, **all the treasures are in Him, but it is now our privilege to discover them and live in their reality.**

HEIR A person who is entitled to receive property, possessions, benefits or gifts from a benefactor who has died.

As believers in Jesus, we should read the Bible to discover and receive all that Jesus purchased for us, based on his death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are **heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. - Romans 8:16-18

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his 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 and fade** - kept in heaven for you, who through faith who are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. - 1 Peter 1:3-5

The death of Jesus on the cross entitles us to forgiveness of sins

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead provides us new life

The ascension of Jesus to the throne of God gives us new authority

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon believers provides new power

The kingdom of God life and message gives usa new cause to live for.

THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

Jesus said that we should be like little children and one of those qualities is the joy of exploration and discovery of new things.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.
- Proverbs 25:2

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. - Matthew 13:44

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see, though hearing they may not understand.' - Luke 8:10

When we see Jesus face to face we will fully realize how precious he himself is. In the meantime, he has given his Spirit and Word which reveal to us our glorious riches.

'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has FREELY GIVEN US. - 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

We finish this message without revealing any more of our inheritance. God wants you to discover it yourself. As you read through the Bible, and especially the New Testament, be on the lookout for things that are included in God's will for you. Testament = Covenant or Will.

Enjoy the exploration and discovery!

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