

Introduction:

Galatians 4.1-7 The Bible describes the children of God in various ways. Sometimes using metaphors such as soldiers, athletes, laborer or workers, salt, light, and so on. In Galatians, Paul uses the word "heir" or God. We understand an "heir" is one who stands to inherit something, to receive the possessions of another. To be an heir one must be name in a will or be entitled under law.

I) **A Christian Is A Heir of God Through Jesus Christ, v. 7**

If someone would say, I inherited something, we would ask, who died.

A) **In this case it is because of the death of Jesus there is an executable estate.**

- 1, Without His death we have no law, *Hebrews 9.16-18*
2. The law states those who will inherit and what they will inherit. Recently, Regena and I had our will drawn up and it stipulates certain things such as who will get my old socks and the treasure hidden on the back forty.

B) **There is discussion about what exactly the subject matter of what one "inherits" as a Christian.**

1. Earlier Paul states that as Christians we are no longer under a tutor (*Galatians 3.25*), no longer slaves but now children of God, (*Galatians 4.6*).

2. Therefore, by law and by relationship we are to inherit the benefits God gives to His children.
3. Important to understand there are duties of being a Christian but also blessings. *Romans 8.17-18*.
4. So what are those things we inherit? Have you ever known someone to inherit something and not know what it is? My reaction would be, "I don't know but I am going to find out!"

II) **The Blessings of Christians Are Not All Future**

What did they receive?

A) **Serenity of life, *Phil. 4.6-7***

1. A lot of people are looking for something but they have no idea of what.
2. Most of us want to feel loved and have some peace of mind as we go through this life.
3. This means we understand what is important and what is not important. *Romans 14.17*
4. The Christian knows what he has now and can be content with those things.

B) **Assurance of sins forgiven, *Acts 2.38***

1. It is a hard thing to try and be perfect none of us are, we have all messed up, sinned at various times in our lives. Carry regret and guilt can be hard to live with.
2. Imagine being at Jerusalem and hearing you had taken part in killing the Son of God, what can be done? *Acts 2.38*

3. Even after obeying the Gospel we are going to stumble but we know God will forgive us if we confess our sins to Him, *1 John 1.9*.

C) The Christian is free to enjoy their lives, *1 Peter 3.10*

1. We know God is watching us and providing what we need, *Matthew 6.33*.
2. We know all things work for good to those who love the Lord, *Romans 8.28*.

III) Some Blessings Are Received In The Future

A) Ironically our greatest blessings come after we die.

1. In this case Jesus' death made His will valid and ours makes it realized.
2. While we may not "realize" the reward until death we recognize they are there.
 - a. Much like a father may tell his children "One day you will inherit all of this" or "One day you will get my ..."

B) Eternal life with God in Heaven is our Inheritance

1. This inheritance is described many ways in the Bible, *1 Peter 1.3-5*.
2. Incorruptible, undefiled, and does not fade away means it is timeless.
3. The beauty and splendor of heaven will never grow old.
4. Neither will we, now we are eternal beings living in a temporary world and temporary body, but in

heaven we will have our eternal bodies.
Revelation 21.1-4.

IV) Who Are The Heirs of *Galatians 4.7?*

What did they, or I, have to do to receive the inheritance?

A) Those who have done the will of the Father, *Matt. 7.21*

B) Those who remained faithful, *Galatians 4.11*

1, One can leave their first love. *Rev. 2.4.*

C) *Galatians 3.26-29* tells us how to become an heir of God through Jesus Christ

1. Leave behind the old and take hold of the new law.

2. Be baptized into Christ.

3. Be faithful until one leaves this world, *Hebrews 4.11*