

Inheritance VS sin

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GREETING

It is an honor for me to bring you the Gospel of God's grace, the goodness of God. I am excited to bring you this message! The love of God is towards all of us and that is absolutely awesome!

Father, I want to thank You so much that we can be together. Thank You for Your love and Your grace. Thank You that we can talk about what You have inherited and what we have inherited. We can talk about inheritance today. Lord, thank You for Your goodness towards us. Amen

COMMUNION

As our custom is, we are going to have Communion together.

Isaiah 42:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; my elect (This is now talking about Jesus here), ***in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.***

God is saying here through Isaiah and what the prophetic word is saying is, "Look at My Servant." The servant here talks about Jesus Christ who has actually come to fulfill what God has promised to the people. It is the Father and the Son working together, and I love what it says here: ***he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.***

When God brings forth judgment to the Gentiles, it is actually talking about how God has now come and declared them, also, as a people of God. So, the judgment that came is to bring life to the Gentiles. That is what this is all about. We know that both Jew and Gentile were declared as sinners according to the law. Sinners means not sharing in eternal life and both of them needed that gift.

But what I love here is that God comes and He says, ***my soul delights in Jesus. I have put my spirit*** (My life) ***upon him:*** (And because I have done that) ***he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.*** He can actually bring what is just and right to people.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

What is he saying here? He is saying that Jesus ***shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth:***

What is this judgment that He has come to set in the earth? This judgment of God is the day of the vengeance of our God where God comes and utterly destroys what is destroying man and gives to man what is right according to the word of promise that was from the beginning.

The only way where judgment and true justice come to this earth is in having a man raised from the dead where eternal life is now given as a gift to man. Where the kingdom of life, the kingdom of light has now come and advanced into this world and takes over this world and brings the life of God to people. That is what this is all about.

Why would we connect all of this with the Communion? We connect this with the Communion because the only way wherein true righteousness and true justice can take place in the earth is by the body of Jesus Christ --- by His death and by His resurrection. God, in Jesus, has the victory over sin and over death in a planet that is taken in darkness wherein light comes forth, wherein His life comes forth, where He reigns with life in this world and so share everything that He is with us and in this world.

So when we take the Communion we are simply mindful of the victory that God has accomplished in Jesus Christ. We declare that we are part of His body and that we are also the body. We also declare that His victory is our victory. Glory to God!

Let us take the bread. As we break the bread we break it thinking on the old man that was broken. We are also thinking on the resurrected physical body of Jesus. As we eat this, we do it in remembrance of everything He has done, everything that He promised and is sure on account of what He has done. We celebrate in our innocence and in the life that we can share with God.

We also celebrate our union with one another. Maybe this holiday season time is not a good time for you because you do not have good family relationships. You feel lonely. You don't have anybody that you can go and visit or any of those kind of things. I want to say to you that you are part of a body.. You are part of the body of Christ. You are part of the Church. You belong. You are loved. God looks at you with a great desire to preserve your life forever for He wants you forever. That is what this is all about.

As we take this we also are celebrating our union with one another, in Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Today, I am going to talk about the inheritance. I want to start out by just giving an outline:

I am going to talk about what it means to have an inheritance, what it means to inherit, how we inherit, what we inherit and what biblical proof do we have that we will **surely** inherit... even more than biblical proof? What proof, what surety, do you have that you will definitely inherit?

There is a difference between an inheritance and to inherit. An inheritance is something that you will inherit. But, to inherit actually means to now share in that which you were to inherit. If I say that my son is going to inherit a car from me, then he already has an inheritance... that car is his inheritance. But, in order to inherit, it will have to come to a place where I give him that car. That can happen before I die. Most of the time with inheritance somebody first has to pass away and then his children and whosoever will get their inheritance. When you get the inheritance is when you actually inherit.

God has come and He has given us an inheritance. We are going to look at what that is. We can, even now, start to experience the first fruit of our inheritance and then we will experience the fullness of our inheritance where we will then inherit what God had for us.

What's important for me, when I come and say this is, when we look at the Greek word of inherit it means to be a sharer by allotment; an inheritor; a possessor. In other words, you inherit when you possessing, when you are sharing in what God has allotted to you. This comes from the old Chaldean ways. People have done this for many, many years. But it is clearly made in the Bible when Israel, the country, the promised land, was divided into eleven parts. They would cast lots and by that lot, people would get their land. In other words, something is mine and then a lot was cast and then the very piece that I could now possess was given to me and then I could possess it.

So, to inherit actually means to possess. You have to be an heir and then you have to then possess it. That is inheritance. It is very important to understand that. I am going to talk about that at the end but let me just jump to the end. If we see inheritance here as to be a sharer or a possessor, now we are going to look at the definition of the word, sin. We see here that sin is not to have your part; not to have your lot; not to have what was assigned to you. So, sin, all of a sudden, gets a different definition. When are we walking in sin? You are walking in sin when you are walking in a way where it would not be possible for you to grab a hold of your inheritance. We know that the only way where we cannot grab a hold of our inheritance is if we live by our own power and our own works, because the inheritance is by promise and promise only.

So we clearly see here that when we talk about inheritance it's much deeper than just what we are going to inherit. We are also going to understand the atonement so much better. We are going to understand what the forgiveness of sin is. Many of you will know that I've preached a message where I say that you get forgiven from dying. That is what forgiveness actually is. It is God coming, delivering you from what leads to death and even death itself. So, when God comes and He has a dream for us, and He has allotted something to us, and we are not having that, it is a sin in the eyes of God. So, it is a sin not to share in what God has dreamt for us. We can die in our sin but God has come to forgive us and deliver us from our sin. We can understand if sin is basically not inheriting, we can understand that the only way where we can be forgiven from sin is by God making sure that we can partake in the inheritance. That is very important! With that said, we are going to look at what we inherit.

Mark 10:17 *And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and knelt to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?* This is mentioned three times in the Bible. We find here that the Jews were thinking that eternal life was an inheritance... something that they could inherit. In other words, it means that God was the possessor of eternal life and if we were taken by Him as His own, then we would inherit eternal life. Since God is never going to die, how are we going to ever inherit eternal life? That's where, I believe, the foundation is from where these people would ask, "What must **I DO** that I can inherit eternal life?"

In normal circumstances there is nothing you are going to do in order to inherit eternal life. Your father is going to pass away or He will come at a certain age and declare you as his son and then you will partake in the inheritance and what he has for you and start to live your life.

But, here, we sit with a God who cannot die and these people are thinking, "What can **I** do to inherit eternal life? So, to me this shows that in those times there was an understanding that you can inherit eternal life where the promise was eternal life or the resurrection.

I listened to a lady yesterday who has many degrees in Jewish history. She spoke at a university and basically spoke about the Jewish concept of immortality or eternal life. She said that the basic understanding of eternal life is not in bodily immortality but basically in your name continuing to live by you doing good things or also, as in Abraham's time, people were thinking that they continue to live in having children. Like in my case, my surname is Brits. If I don't have children then I die now. But if I don't have children and I die then my name dies with me. If I do have children, then my name will continue to live. So Abraham was thinking, "Well, if I don't have children and I am dying, then Abraham is dead. But, if I have children then I am continuing to live in my children." Those were just two of the ways where eternal life was understood by the Jews.

So many times we think, "The Jews say this ... the Jews say that." The Jew's view and opinion has changed over time. What the Jews believed a thousand before Christ and what they believe 500 before Christ and what they believe 500 after Christ died, what they believed a hundred years after Christ, what they believed a thousand after Christ died and what they believe now is all different. It is just as if their mind is changing all the time. It is difficult to say that a Jew says this therefore it is true. We have to go look at what God says about eternal life. We have to have God's definition of eternal life where God was actually coming to set the Jews' mind straight on what eternal life is. But, what we can see here is that there were people already thinking in the right direction. They were thinking that the inheritance is eternal life.

Today's message is going to basically be a summary of all the messages that we have had this year and the theme of everything we have been talking about this year. When we talk about eternal life and that is what we inherit, we are going to have to define what eternal life is. We clearly see here that in three places in the New Testament, it was mentioned twice in Luke, that inheritance was seen as eternal life. That was the desire. They were talking about the resurrection. They were thinking about the resurrection but they did not have a good understanding on what this eternal life exactly is. Today, we sit with the same question: What is eternal life? If we think of people living a good life like Nelson Mandela, who came and forgave and all those kind of things, then we find that after he passed away some years from now, people still talk about him. They will continue to talk about him for some years. There will be a time where he will also be forgotten but his life will continue in the good deed that he has done. That is also how we see something living a long time, living by making a name for ourselves so that when we die we can leave something and continue to live in our children. That is also how many people today define eternal life. But, God's definition of eternal life is something completely different.

We find God's definition of eternal life in **1 John 1:**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

What I want to point out here is from verse 2: (*For the life was manifested* (This life, this word, which was from the beginning; this eternal life that was with the Father), *and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;*)

He is talking to the Gnostics and what he is basically saying to them that eternal life is not possessed in man's spirit. John was writing to the Gnostics who believed that they were eternal beings in their spirit but they were dwelling in darkness which is the body. But here he comes and says, "Well, God had a promise of eternal life from the beginning and we want to declare to you that it is not just in the spirit. But that in God there is no darkness at all and this message of eternal life actually comes and he dwelt among us and we bear witness of this eternal life that God raised Jesus from the dead and that there is not darkness in the man Jesus. That means that it is not just His spirit that is eternal but that He, as a full human being, is now eternal and this is the eternal life that we declare to you. If you can just acknowledge that you are not just a spirit but a human and you can see that the human Jesus was raised from the dead, then all of a sudden, you, as a full human, have your fellowship with God because you are identifying with the human Jesus at the right hand of God. So shall God then cleanse you of all unrighteousness and He will wash away all areas of your life where you are not sharing or taking part in the inheritance.

We need to read more about that. Let's read from **1 John**:

8 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

This is for people saying, "I am just a spirit and my spirit is holy. The rest may be sinful but that is not who I really am."

9 *If we confess our sins* (In other words, if we can confess that we as completely human beings, we are not, in our complete human, sharing in the inheritance that God has for us but that we are mortal. And in the context of the whole chapter, we can see eternal life in a man at the right hand of God and that there is no darkness in Him and have that as a hope), ***he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins*** (forgive us of not inheriting; to separate us from not sharing in our inheritance which is eternal life), ***and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

So we can clearly see here that John comes and he declares eternal life as eternal existence, inside a human body, wherein the whole human is saved... saved from corruption and death and saved from any form of life that doesn't line up with a quality of God's life which is love. That is very important for us to understand.

Let me just summarize what I said:

The inheritance is something that is given to you or promised to you. To inherit means to partake or to share in that inheritance. Sin is not to have a share in but to inherit means to share in what is allotted to you. That means that God has allotted eternal life to us. That is what He decided before the world began. Then man started to walk in sin or in a place where they cannot share in eternal life which is to walk in the power of their own ability and not to have what God has freely given to them... to create life by themselves... to work up their own righteousness. I don't want to go too deep into that but here is the summary: We have inheritance which is the promise of eternal life. We inherit when we grab a hold of that. We walk in sin when we are not sharing in that or when we are not in the path where we can surely inherit. He, then, has come to forgive our sin or to remove us from the place where we cannot inherit eternal life. I have also said that it was clear in the early times when Jesus was upon the earth, that it is at least three times mentioned that inheritance is eternal life for these people asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

We have defined eternal life as bodily immortality where there is no darkness in God and therefore when God comes and saves us there will also be no darkness in us at all. It is not just our spirit that is saved but where salvation is declared as the whole human being flooded with the light of life.

John comes in **1John 5** and he declares that eternal life is a life wherein the human being can share where the human being can live and not die. Where God, by His doing, makes humans immortal and gives to that immortal being also the quality of life that God has. I want to put it this way: I believe that eternal existence, eternal life, can be defined like this: It is eternal existence. I must be careful in saying it this way because it sounds like the law, on account of a quality of life that is so good that it cannot end. In other words, God has come to give us a quality of life that is so high that that quality of life exists forever. I preached on that earlier this year as well. You have to go to my messages to see a more in depth information on that.

We've come to the point where we see that eternal life is definitely eternal existence in a physical human being. There was a promise of eternal life from the beginning. This promise was manifested and what God intended was seen and what was seen was that it is not just a name of man that continues to live because of the good works that he has done. Neither is it man living forever because of procreation. We find that the human being, not his spirit as all these Socrates and all these followers believed but the human can live forever and that is what God has come to give us as a gift.

I want to say something else and remember we are summarizing this year's messages. It is very important for us to believe that a human is not an inherent immortal being but that a human is mortal and can truly die. Because if you believe the lie that says that a human is an inherent immortal being, his spirit would live forever, you come from eternity and you are on your way to eternity, like a lot of the inclusion, universalism. kind of thinking states that you are just a spirit being living forever anyway. When the Gospel offers eternal life, your mind will tell you not to even invest into that because you will say, "What these folk are trying to offer me is what I inherently already have." It's like selling sugar to someone who already has too much sugar. He is not wanting to buy it. In the very same way if I come to you and say, "Jesus was raised from the dead so that you can have eternal life, for you are not an inherently immortal being. You are mortal and you can die and your life can go to waste and you will be gone. If you cannot believe that you are mortal, immortality will not be seen as a gift and salvation will make no sense according to what Jesus Christ has actually done for us. We will take the Bible and start to read other things into it. .

Another point is that it is very important to see that we are humans, mortals, and unto us is given the gift of eternal life. We've got life. God blew into us the breath of life and offered us eternal life. So the fact that you have life doesn't mean that you have eternal life. You just have life and you can lose this life. But, if you want this life to be forever, God can seal this up and give you eternal life. We can conclude that eternal life is physical immortality which is a gift to us.

When we talk about inheritance we need to realize that we are inheriting God and that God is inheriting us. When God decided to save man, the only way that He could save man was actually to bring forth a man that can now come and sit at the right hand of God. This Man, Jesus Christ, Son of man, also called, Son of God, this man when He came and was raised from the dead then He inherited something. God, which is Spirit, also inherited something. He inherited a human in the Godhead. So, God inherits humans and we, who believe upon the Lord, inherit God. That mans that God grabbed a hold of a human and when God grabbed a hold of a human and gave Him eternal life to then rule over the earth, and whosoever believes on Him, we now find that that rulership manifests in us and we then share in inheriting the very life of God. So, God inherits us and we inherit God.

Our inheritance is eternal life... eternal life as a **human** being... just like God!

How do we inherit? It's really important to see how we inherit by knowing how our inheritance comes. I have read **Titus 1:1-3** many times as well as **1 John 2:25**.

Titus 1:1-3 says that God who cannot lie has promised eternal life from before the world began. So, this inheritance, which the Jew said, "How will I inherit eternal life since it is something that God has promised before the world began? How will we inherit that?" The Bible also says in **1 John 2:25** that the promise is eternal life. We see the same promise in **Genesis 15:1-8**. How do you inherit something that is promised? You believe! That's the only way. There is no other way that you can partake of an inheritance outside of simply believing. You just need to believe. There is nothing bigger than just believing because it is by a promise and no other way. God has come and given us the promise of eternal life.

Here it is. Let's go through it. It's very simple. God gives us an inheritance. This inheritance is eternal life. This eternal life is defined as bodily immortality on account of sharing in God's quality of life. That means that this life will have love and kindness and peace and generosity and all those kind of things. So, what God is actually promising man is, "I'm promising you that I will come and rule over you with My power and then as I bring my kingdom, My rule of life, to you, you will then share in the very life I have and give you. That is what it is all about. He has come to give us eternal life. This eternal life is bodily immortality. All of this is done by a promise. How do we get this? Very simple: we believe. That is all. We believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and that God can fulfill what He has promised to us. If we can simply believe this, we will not always fall into works righteousness.

Let me say it this way: If you can believe that you are a mortal being, inherently mortal, being by your own power and that you can die and you can believe that God promised you eternal life, it would be very difficult for you to be seduced by the devil to fall into works righteousness and the law. I think this is going to be a revelation for some of you...when we look at the original thing that happened in the Garden of Eden and what the devil had to do in order to get Eve to fall into works righteousness or to have life by her own works, first he had to bring God's character into question: "God's lying to you!"

The second thing he had to do was to make Adam and Eve to believe that they are already immortal beings as what 99 percent of the church in south Africa and America already believe that we are spirits and we are immortal. So if you can believe that you are already immortal and you can believe that God lied to you. In other words God said to you that you can truly die and you say that is not true. You cannot actually die... who you are can actually live forever. Your body will die but you will continue to live and not die, is a lie from the devil. If you believe you are already an immortal being, you will be tempted by doing good works to say, "I am now just going to manifest my immortality." It's the very same thing the devil came and tempted Jesus with in the desert. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..." in other words, "If you have eternal life, live by living that life." Jesus said, "I will not have life by what I can produce but I will have life by what the Father said." By that He said, "God did not lie. I am mortal as a human and God has promised me eternal life I am only going to believe Him. Even if I die, He will raise Me on the third day and so I will live forever."

I hope you can see that the deeper you get into this truth, the less you will fall into the law. The less you will find the power of sin in you. The less you will find the fruit of the flesh in your life because you know that by my own works I can never make myself live forever.

When you know that the destination is eternal life, and that is what God has promised you, and you know you are mortal, you will clearly, instinctively, already know that it is impossible for you to reach that which God has promised, by your good works. The only way where the devil could get you to live in your own works, the only way that Satan can get man to live by their own works, is to convince them that God has lied and that they are inherently immortal beings because that is the platform from where you say, "Since I am an immortal being, give me the stones now. Which stones must I make bread? Where must I jump off? What must I do? Let me stand on the temple and jump off. Let me just live my immortality." If Jesus had done that when He was in the desert it would have meant His fall!

But, He didn't do that for He believed that He only lived from what the Father has done. He said, "I will live from every word that comes from the Father's mouth!" What came from the Father's mouth? "Before the world began, God the Father promised eternal life. When the man Jesus was born, He believed the word that was from the beginning. He believed the Father. He believed that He was the Son of God, as Jesus, and yet also the Son of man. In that time when He believed all of that He didn't believe the lies when the devil came to him and said, "Listen, man, Mary is your mother and since you don't have a physical father that means you are already immortal. God's lying! You cannot die! You don't have to trust Him to give you life. Just live! You are already an immortal being." Jesus did not believe that lie. He believed, and this is how I see it, He believed that He will live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Father, actually declaring, "I have the promise of the resurrection!" That's how I see that! That is very important for us to understand.

Every now and then I find people say to me, "Bertie, why are you hammering on eternal life" Why are you hammering on **bodily** immortality? Why are you hammering and saying that we are **mortal** beings?" The reason why I say all of that is because it is beneficial for us. It will help us to see what Christ has done. It will keep us out of the law. It will keep us out of works righteousness and we will find the fullness of God start to manifest in our lives. Glory to God!

We will find love and peace and joy and in the end even our bodily death conquered by God Himself. That is what it is. You will not be tempted to go back to the law. "Bertie, why are you preaching that we are mortal and God has promised us immortality? It's a promise. It is a hope for us." Do you know why I tell you that? If you can believe that you are immortal right now, in the fullness of you, and there's not a **hope** for immortality, then you can be tempted by the devil saying, "Well, see you are this, you don't need to trust God for anything. You just go and do who you are!" Where the truth is that Jesus died, He rose, He poured out His Spirit on us. This Spirit whereby we cry, "Abba Father", shall also, if you read the whole of **Romans 8**, in a certain time in the future, quicken our mortal bodies. But as for now we, as well as creation, groans waiting for the adoption which is the redemption of our bodies.

So now I still say, "I don't see my body yet redeemed. Yet, the Spirit that is in me, the spirit of love and kindness and also the tongues that I pray and the Spirit of God, the life of God that is inside me is already the first proof that I will have what God has promised. That's why now, when I do see things in my life where I see weaknesses or those kind of things, I'm not tempted to try and overcome that by the works of the law. I overcome that by resting in the promise of the Father and that's why I, as long as I believe that, will easily be tempted to live by the law and rejecting the promise which is for free.

We see here that that the only way that we can have this inheritance is by belief is because it is by a promise.

I would like to end off by looking at a passage in **Romans 4:16**. How do you know for sure that you will inherit? There is a scripture in **Ephesians 1:13** that says that the spirit we have now is the earnest of our inheritance. That means the first payment of our inheritance. As you believe upon Him, you receive the Holy Spirit. That Spirit of God guides you, brings forth life inside you. That is already the first payment of your eternal life. That is already the manifestation of eternal life, the beginning of the manifestation of it. It is already that life. By that Spirit we are already crying "Abba Father" and we will also see our bodies being saved.

Romans 4

:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law works wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;

How can you be sure? How did God make sure that you can get this? He says that He made sure by making the inheritance by promise for if it is by promise then it cannot be attained by the law for should we try and do it by the law we, as mortals, cannot, and our destruction will be sure. So what he says is, "I make it by faith so that the promise can be given by grace. That's why it makes it sure.

Why can you be sure that you will have eternal life? Because God gave it by promise. He made sure that it is through faith so that it can be by grace. Grace is the resurrection power. So he says, "Believe in Me. Trust Me that I can keep My promise!" Then He will raise a man from the dead by whom He will keep His promise towards you. He did it this way so that salvation can be sure towards you for any other way you would have to live by the power of dust and that would be impossible for you to have eternal life.

At the end of the day we have a very loving God that has come to give us eternal life. Glory to God! Listen to this again. It will enrich your life. Take your bible, listen to the message, look at the scriptures. Ask God to show you. Amen

Thank you for allowing me to walk with you through this year. It was awesome to have you in this web fellowship and then I will see you again next year. God bless...