

Inheritance for Eternity

We continue on the prayer from Paul for all the believers

Prayer is so important in our Christian lives.

There are three vital topics in our verses.

- (1) In verse 16, Paul announces his **prayers** to God the Father for these believers.
- (2) Then in verse 16 Paul proclaims that he does not cease **giving thanks** to them.
- (3) Then in verses 17 through 21 Paul lists important issues in his prayer for these people;

Ephesians 1:16 while making mention of you in my prayers;

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the true knowledge of Him.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

Ephesians 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

This is all part of his prayer. So please learn about your own prayers for one another.

In Ephesians 5:20 His prayer is

Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God even the Father.

Then we are to continually be in prayer for one another as stated in

Ephesians 6:18 with all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints

We should pray for each other! Pray for other believers in your family, in our assembly, in our nation and for believers throughout the world. And to be in fervent prayer that they gain wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him and pray for the needs of believers.

Remember the three steps of prayer. Preparation, Prayer and then Prayer Pursuit! Prayer Preparation begins when you decide that you will depend

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

on God for directions in life and solutions to problems. The foundation for prayer Preparation is God's Word.

When you start going into prayer means you are now seeking the Will of God. Read

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

Psalm 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

I hope you learned in your prayer life, to pray for believers. Notice here all of Ephesians is concerned with prayers for believers not with unbelievers. Yes we are to pray for unbelievers, but please, know the importance of praying for one another.

Please remember, to pray an effective prayer, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. (pray at all times in the Spirit—Ephesians 6:18)

Prayer Pursuit is the stage of prayer that leads to the dynamics of prayer. Prayer Pursuit places you in position for God to answer prayers and for God to Act in your life. Prayer Pursuit is living according to what you have prayed.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope (confidence) of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

This refers to the confidence of all eternity with Jesus Christ.

Inheritance for Eternity Ephesians 1:18

No matter what your life is like as a believer, at death your soul departs immediately to be with the Lord. There is no more sorrow, no more tears no more pain, no more death, the old things have passed away, and no matter what kind of life you lived this happens for every believer. So, people, no matter the death of any believer, please have peace in your soul for anyone in your life, that their life is the same for every believer. Eternity after death does not depend on anything that you have done. The death of a believer is settled in eternity, and depends entirely on who and what God is and what Christ has done. Never does it ever depend on us.

So the hope, the confidence of His calling is about the certainty of eternity with Him. No one knows what heaven is going to be like. But we know that it is going to be perfect happiness. Nothing can destroy it, nothing can change it. You have an “inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God.” And please know that you do not keep this by anything you do, but it is kept by the power of Jesus Christ

Next: *What are the riches of the glory inheritance? Or more correctly: what the riches-- from the source of-- the glory of-- His inheritance*
Riches refers to unlimited resources.

It is now time to look at the doctrine of Inheritance of your eternal future.

1. What did Jesus inherit?

God the Father has appointed Jesus as the heir of all things.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

2. Just think, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ you also have inherited all things! We are in Christ and everything He has

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

received from His Father, He has made us joint heirs of all things. Sit and just think that you are heirs to all things in Christ. Think of this, you are saved in Jesus Christ, you are an eternal ‘friend’ of Jesus and eternal joint heirs of Christ. What does it mean that we are heirs of God? Being heirs of God, means that we are in an eternal relationship to God the Father.

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 and if (since we are) children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Please, just think of all you are for all eternity, *joint heirs with Christ.*

Now, notice the richness of

Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

3. Heirship is based on Sonship. This is why Christ is called the *Son of God*. His title 'Son of God' indicates *He is the heir of God the Father*, as well as the focal point of the complement of divine decrees.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit (the Holy Spirit) Himself testifies with our spirit (our human spirit) that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 and if (since) children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer (death) with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

This is why as heirs of God, we have to become sons of God, and that's why Galatians 3:26 tells us when you believe in Christ you become the son of God.

4. Heirship is also based upon the death of another,

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5. To inherit from God, one must also possess, the life of God. You can't be God's heir unless you are living just as God does. God has eternal life, you must have eternal life as He has eternal life.

Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope (confidence) of eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life

This is one of the greatest verses in the Bible including many aspects including that we receive the life of God.

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

John 3:16 For in this manner, loved, The God, the world, that The Son, the only begotten, He gave that – in order that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life

Now that we have His life, by faith, we become heirs of God.

6. Therefore, salvation is the qualification for joint inheritance.

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light

This is why in Ephesians 1:13 we are told of our salvation by faith.

7. Heirship is also related to the doctrine of election, since the joint heirs share the election of Christ.

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He (Jesus Christ) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place (on the cross) for the redemption of the violations that were committed under the first covenant, (The need of New Covenant is understood by the failure of the first covenant) those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

8. By 1 Peter 1:4-5 we are told that we have the coming of our inheritance secured for all eternity.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

9. One of the most important principles of our inheritance is found in our relationship with Abraham or to the promise of being heirs through Abraham.

Galatians 3: 29 And if you belong to Christ, (by faith in Christ in salvation) then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Romans 4:13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants (believers in Church Age are descendants of Abraham) that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, (Old Testament) but through the righteousness of faith.

10. The inheritance of the Holy Spirit is the down payment of our heritage.

Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption

**Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18**

of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

11. We are God's special possession, that is His Glorious inheritance.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

12. We should have peace in our souls by the assurance of the inheritance from God.

Acts 20:32 And now I entrust you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build (your faith) you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

13. God desired to assure to us the inheritance He is giving us.

Hebrews 6:17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness, of His purpose confirmed it with an oath.

Believers who are heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ are declared to have certainty of heirship more than any other thing declared by God in His Word. Think about heirship in our own relationship with others in human history. Study heirship in the study of Rome over its hundreds of years in history, about heirs throughout Roman history. It is so interesting how one of the strongest points of law in the study of the

Inheritance for Eternity Ephesians 1:18

Soviet Union (Communism) and the People's Republic of China is the destruction of inheritance. "In 1848 Karl Marx proclaimed that the communist revolution would effect the 'abolition of all rights of inheritance'. Inheritance runs counter to the basic tenets of communism." (Frances Foster-Simons) Satan cannot stand that God gives inheritance! A study of the movements by Satan sees that Satan constantly is against things that God has clearly put into His eternal plan. Like 'freedom' and inheritance. But always remember God's plans. God advances and glorifies His Son and inheritance to His Son and inheritance to those who are with His Son for all eternity. This is why you should study our thirteen points on inheritance and many more passages throughout the Bible. Most of our study was in the New Testament, but please remember that inheritance in the New Testament is based on inheritance in line with Abraham and he as a follower in Jesus Christ.

The last words in verse 18 is "in the saints" or in NASV "in holy ones." The point is that you cannot be an heir unless you are a saint and you can't be a saint unless you believe in Jesus Christ as your savior. Being a holy one is believing in Jesus Christ. Not by living a certain way of suffering for Jesus. Being a saint refers to just one thing, believing in Jesus as your eternal savior at which time you become an heir. All believers are saints! We are each one a saint...saint and then add your name.

If you have believed in Jesus Christ you are a saint!

What does "heir" means in the Bible?

A person who inherits or has a right of inheritance in the property of another following the latter's death. Law.

What is our glorious inheritance?

Inheritance for Eternity
Ephesians 1:18

Glory seems like a vague description, but it is the single word that best captures our future as children of God. Though the details of this inheritance are not made clear to us, what is certain is that all of God's children are heirs together with Christ of a glorious future.