



The Word at Work

Obtaining an Inheritance: Sharing in His Glory!

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:11

Key Points:

- When we were chosen we obtained an inheritance.
- When we were adopted we became sons *and heirs*.

Our inheritance is both now and future

- Canaan represents the inheritance we have in Christ and that we can begin to enjoy now – it is not a picture of heaven
- But much of the language of inheritance in the NT relates to heaven, the future age to come (e.g. Matt.25:34; Col.3:24; 1 Pet.1:3-5).

The coming of the Kingdom

- This is because of the way in which the Kingdom comes – it has come, is coming and will come (see the diagram).
- The age to come has broken into this present age through the resurrection of Christ.
- It will come in its fullness at the return of Christ.

Receiving our inheritance

- We should press on to take hold of as much of our inheritance as we can in this present age (Col.1:12-13).
- Looking to our future inheritance actually inspires and enables us to start enjoying more of it now (Col.1:3-5).

Aspects of our future inheritance

- The inheritance is spoken of in terms of the kingdom (1 Cor.15:50), eternal life (Titus 3:7) and salvation (Heb.1:14).
- It will include specific rewards for our service (Col.3:24) and the redemption of our bodies (Rom.8:23-24)
- But the focus is on sharing in his glory:
 - Begins with his glorious appearing (Titus 2:13)
 - Becoming like him as we see him (1 John 3:2-3)
 - Being presented to him without blemish (Col.1:22-23)
 - Displaying his glory in its fullness (Eph.1:11-12)
- And then gaining entry into the new heaven and new earth (Rev.21:1-7) and being with the Lord forever (1 Thess.4:13-18)
- This inheritance can never spoil or fade (1 Pet.1:1:3-5)

We are God's inheritance

- This is all ultimately for his glory, as Ephesians 1 repeats.
- Ephesians 1:18 tells us that we are *his* inheritance – slaves to sin turned into sons of God, displaying the fullness of his glory.
- This is what he went through the cross for (Isaiah 53:10-11; Heb.12:2)

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. What does it mean to say that we have obtained an inheritance?
2. How can we press on to take hold of as much of this inheritance as we can in this life?

To Do:

1. Spend some time thanking God for all that he has called you to and given you.

return of
Jesus

2 - Kingdom is coming

3 - Kingdom will come

The age to come

new heaven & new earth

INHERITANCE

1 - Kingdom has come

This present

evil age

resurrection

of Jesus