

# The Hope of Inheritance

(Rom 6:17)

- Remember the context is still the assurance of justification by faith
- I. Rom 8:16- Spirit's witness to son-ship
  - A) Paul has been detailing the forms of assurance the Holy Spirit brings to the believer
    - 1. These have been in an ascending order
    - 2. He has reached the climax in v.16 in describing the assurance of the Spirit's sealing our son-ship to us
      - i. John 6:27- The example of Christ
        - a) Jesus "sealed" with the assurance "You are My Son!"
        - b) He had always been the Son of God, but here He is personally assured while in His earthly body and walk
        - c) He is sealed this way immediately prior to His public ministry
- II. Rom 8:17- This verse is directly tied to v.16
  - A) The "sealing" is linked to the "earnest of the inheritance"
    - 1. It is a "taste" or "first-fruit" of eternal glory itself with the Lord
      - i. 2 Cor 1:22- Paul's links his sealing with the earnest of the inheritance
      - ii. Eph 1:13-14- Paul does the same again
        - a) This linking together of the "sealing" and the "earnest" is confirmation of a correct exposition of v.16
        - b) This is not simply the indwelling life of the Spirit at regeneration, it is an assurance, and the ultimate form of it
          - 1) It is an "earnest" of the glory to come
  - B) Inheritance
    - 1. Under Roman law all children are co-heirs
      - i. But this wasn't so under Jewish law, the 1<sup>st</sup> born got a double-portion
      - ii. All Christians are "sons" and thus "heirs" in Christ, and are "partakers" of the inheritance
        - a) While "one star differeth from another in glory," there is no truth to the Son-ship Edification heresy, nor any other that makes 2 classes of Christians
        - b) Rom 5:1-2- "Hope of the glory of God"
        - c) Eph 5:1-5- Children in the inheritance of the kingdom
        - d) James 1:18- Begotten children
        - e) John 1:11-13- Power to become sons of God
        - f) 2 Pet 1:4- Partakers of divine nature

2. “If”- Not doubtful affirmation, but is “since, because, therefore”
3. “Heirs”- This is a chief comfort under the burdens of this world
  - i. This is also at the center of true evangelism
    - a) Man’s problem is not the sorrows or hardships of this world
      - 1) False evangelism often promises “best life” here
    - b) Man’s problem is he is in a wrong relationship to God and subject to the wrath of God
      - 1) Eph 2:1-3- Children of disobedience and wrath
      - 2) Rom 5:9- Saved from wrath
    - c) John 16:33- “In this world ye shall have tribulation”
      - 1) But not in the world to come because the Lord has overcome
      - 2) We are like the creation itself while here (Rom 8:18-24) subject to suffering, but living in sure hope of deliverance
      - 3) Rom 8:18- Paul says he cannot promise us we won’t have troubles in this world, but he can promise us that they do not compare with the glory to come (glory = inheritance)
        - (a) 2 Cor 12:1-3- Paul himself having been given an “earnest” of it
  - ii. “Hope”- This is the gift of hope (as in Rom 8:18-24)
    - a) Hope is in the promise of God consummated
    - b) Eph 2:11-12- When lost we have no hope
      - 1) Eph 2:19-21- But in Christ we are fellow heirs of the subject of the gift of hope
      - 2) The unbeliever has no “hope” therefore he lives a world of distraction whereby he doesn’t have to face the facts of his future
    - c) Heb ch 11- The great chapter of faith and the “hope” it produced
      - 1) “Looked for a heavenly city,” “saw it afar off,” the recompense of the reward,” “suffer affliction rather than the pleasures of sin for a season”
      - 2) Eph 3:6- The great mystery was that gentiles also are included in this hope and inheritance
        - (a) Gal 3:28-29- Gentiles heirs also
        - (b) Eph 1:11-14- Jewish heirs and gentile heirs, no difference
  - iii. “Heirs” and “inheritance”
    - a) Matt 25:31-41- The kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world
    - b) Acts 26:17-18- Inheritance among the household of faith (as in Heb 11)
    - c) Eph 1:15-18- The hope of the inheritance as well as an inheritance
      - 1) The church is Christ’s inheritance

- (a) Deut 32:9- “The Lord’s portion is His people”
- (b) John 16:21- The travail pain forgotten
- 2) Christ is the inheritance of the saints in the new creation
  - (a) Col 1:12- Partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light
  - (b) Col 3:4- Appear with Him in glory
  - (c) Col 3:24- The reward of the inheritance
  - (d) Tit 3:7- Heirs according to the hope of eternal life
    - (1) Eternal is more a quality than a quantity
  - (e) Heb 1:14- Heirs of salvation
    - (1) 1 Pet 1:3-5- Not a salvation from troubles in this world, but delivered to an incorruptible inheritance reserved for us in heaven
    - (2) 1 John 3:1-3- Every man that has this hope in him purifies and prepares
    - (3) Tit 2:12- Living soberly in this present world due to the hope in us
- 3) This “hope” should be the controlling factor in our lives
  - (a) The “earnest” or “first-fruit” of the sealing is to promote the desire for the harvest