

The Battle of Inheritance

September 16, 2012

I. Review: The One New Man (Eph 2:11-3:13)

A. The mystery of the gospel (Eph 3:3-11)

The mystery (of Christ) which for ages has been hidden, revealed to Paul ... that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

B. 15 Comparisons of two Kinds of People (Eph 2:11-22)

1. When God looks at people He sees them either:

Before Christ - or - In Christ

2. The power of religion - Religion divides - Jesus unites!

Comparison # 1 uncircumcision or circumcision Eph 2:11

3. Jesus Christ brought change in our relationship to God

Comparison # 2 Separated from Christ or brought near by the blood of Christ: Eph 2:13

Comparison # 3 Peace or no peace with God; Eph 2:14

Comparison # 4. Far off or near (reconciled) Eph 2:17

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Col 1:21-22 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--

4. Jesus is the way to world peace; He brings change in personal relationships

Comparison # 5. Enmity / strife or peace. Eph 2:14, 15, 17

Comparison # 6. Racism or one new man Eph 2:14-16

II. Our battle to receive and walk in redemption's inheritance

Comparison # 7. Excluded from the Commonwealth of Israel or included as fellow heirs.

Eph 2:12 ... excluded from the commonwealth of Israel ...

The word rendered here as "commonwealth" - politeia - means properly citizenship, or the right of citizenship, and then a community, or state. (from Barnes' Notes)

Eph 2:19 but you are fellow citizens with the saints,

The word "fellow citizens," (sumpolitai); an old, but rare word, it is used only here in the New Testament, believers in Christ are now members of the (politeia) of Israel (Eph 2:12). (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, (Php 3:20)

Comparison # 8. Hope or no hope

Eph 2:12 ... having no hope ...

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope;

1 Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Jer 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope .

Comparison # 9. Without God or Part of God's household

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Heb 3:6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house -- whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Heb 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. (1 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 4:17)

Comparison # 10. Strangers or fellow partakers of the covenantal promise

Eph 2:12 strangers to the covenants of promise,

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,

2 Co 1:20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes;

Ro 15:7-9 therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written ...

Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Comparison # 11. Strangers or family.

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Ro 8:14-17 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

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

Gal 4:28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Heb 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Comparison # 12. Foreigners or citizens of God's kingdom.

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

Comparison # 13. Living without purpose and destiny or being part of God's household, God's temple.

Eph 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Jesus lives in you and He is the God of hope therefore we have hope. It is the cross that gives us hope and a future, a destiny and a purpose, therefore, we can choose to walk in hope.

Rom 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Rom 5:4-5; 8:24-25; 12:12; 15:4,13)

2 Cor 1:10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col 1:5; 23; Eph 1:18; 4:4)

1 Tim 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope, (1 Thes 1:3; 5:8; 2 Thes 2:16; Titus 3:7)

Heb 6:11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, (Heb 3:6; 6:18-19; 7:19; 1 Pet 1:3, 21)

Comparison # 14. Sinners or Saints

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints

We are saints because we are in Christ Jesus. We are part of the family of God, we are no longer foreigners. In fact, God includes us into sainthood. Every Christian is a saint for it is the blood of Jesus that brings us sainthood.

Gal 2:15-17 "We are Jews by nature, and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. "But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!

1 Cor 1:2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours; (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 14:33; Phil 1:1; Col 1:2; 2 Cor 1:1)

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. (Col 1:26; Jude 3; 2 Tim 1:9)

Comparison # 15. Excluded from worship or draw near (part of God's Temple).

Eph 2: 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Eph 2:20-22 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Heb 3:3-4, For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

Heb 3:6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house-- whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

1 Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (Col 2:7)

1 Cor 3:9-15 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Tim 3:15; Eph 4:12-16)

III. Conclusion:

A. We are born into the natural kingdom of darkness and despair. Salvation in Christ brings us to a new identity and destiny. However, to experience all that God has for us, we must learn to stake our claim in what God has provided for us in Christ Jesus.

B. Some of the promises (changes) that God has declared are easier to receive than others. We must learn to identify the areas in our life that are deficient of what God has declared. These areas become the battleground in our fight of faith. They only become a reality as we declare and stand on God's Word.

C. Every day we have a choice to participate in what God is doing in the earth today. This begins with the recognition that through redemption, we are in His forever family and eternal kingdom. Failure to choose God's daily plan for our life will lead us to hopelessness and despair.