

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 1:11-14

Lesson #5

Inheritance

08/27/2017

Can the Christian faith
that is heavenly minded

**be earthly
relevant?**



1

Is the currency of the
Christian Gospel relevant
only to the extent that it is
changed out to a

**temporal,
material,
political,
currency?**

2

The Point of this lesson:

Christian faith that is of
earthly good (relevant)

**must first
be heavenly
minded!**

3

Ephesians 1

“¹¹ also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of **promise**, ¹⁴ who is given as a **pledge** of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

4

1 Peter 1:4

“to obtain an **inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you.”

Hebrews 9:15

“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the **promised eternal inheritance**,”

Romans 8:17

“and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**,”

Colossians 1:12

“giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in **the inheritance of the saints** in Light.”

Inheritance = heaven

5

Colossians 1

“²⁵ . . . that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, ²⁶ that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, 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.”

The mystery that was made known to the world through the Gospel was the “indwelling Christ” “the hope of glory” for both Jew and Gentile.

6

The Holy Spirit a “**seal**”, a “**pledge**”, & a “**promise**”

Ancient Roman stamp seal - (identity, ownership, authority)

Wedding rings - (pledge, covenant)

Spiritual equivalents

- Circumcision in Israel
- Water baptism, Lord's supper in Christianity

1 Peter 3:21

“Corresponding to that, **baptism** now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an **appeal to God for a good conscience** — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

7

What does the Holy Spirit “**seal**”, “**pledge**”, & “**promise**”?

- **Inner assurance** of our security in Christ.
- **Confidence before God** in prayer.
- **Love** for all those whom God loves.
- **Down payment** of what is to come.
- **The law of God** engraved in our heart.

8

The picture is an analogy.

1. God's kingdom is His Son's inheritance.
2. We are united with His Son by faith and joint heirs with him.
3. We are given his Spirit as a pledge of our inheritance.
4. Believing this is vital to:

Sacrificial service
Abiding faith
Vibrant worship

9

“Without delayed gratification there is no self-control.”

9



Peggy Cahn

“The sign of maturity is accepting deferred gratification.”

11

Hebrews 12

“¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”

12

Philippians 3

“⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from {the} Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

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Implications

1. Christianity is about delayed gratification.
2. Christianity is about the joy of knowing what awaits us.
3. Our blessed hope is a part of our worship.
4. Our blessed hope is a motive for our love, and faith through trials.

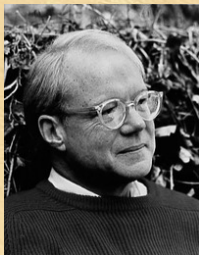
14

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think



of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. (p. 134). 15



M Scott Peck

“America’s greatest sin is the refusal to delay gratification.”

16

Why
are we to
remember our Lord’s
death until he comes?



17