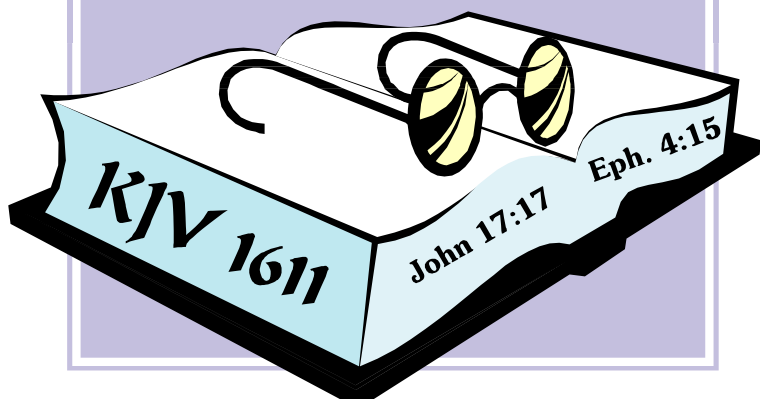


Gloryland's **New Christian Series**

*Doctrinal Studies
for New Believers*



Lesson Five

The Christian's Inheritance

New Christian Series

Doctrinal Studies for New Believers

Lesson Five

The Christian's Inheritance

This Bible course has been prepared and distributed
as a ministry of:

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“A sound and well composed catechism studied well and kept in memory, would be a good measure of knowledge, to ordinary Christians, and make them solid and orderly in their understanding, and in their proceeding to the smaller points, and would prevent a great deal of error and miscarriage, that many by ill teaching are cast upon, to their own and the churches grief! Yea, it were to be wished, that some teachers of late had learnt so much and orderly themselves.” — Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

INTRODUCTION

This is a study about *The Christian's Inheritance, Lesson #5* in the *New Christian Series*. In this study we will learn about the different parts of the believer's divine legacy. Our Father is the King of kings, and our heavenly inheritance is no small thing consider. It is vast and large beyond any earthly comprehension.

As the Bible says:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

— *I Corinthians 2:9*

In this verse Paul is making reference to Isaiah 64:4. In the context of his letter to the Corinthian church, he is speaking of spiritual truths, and the mysteries of God's wisdom that are *hidden* in the scriptures. But, we find that there is an even greater application to be made as we consider our own *heavenly inheritance*. And what must it be, if our greatest imaginations fall so far short of it?

Part of our future inheritance will be made up of rewards earned by the faithful accomplishment of works done in obedience to the Lord's guidance since we were saved. They are called *rewards* because they are given by our heavenly Father as the due compensation of our labor for Him.

As the scriptures say:

"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt."

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

— Romans 4:4-5

Romans 4:4 teaches us that we must work for rewards, and that they are awarded, not of grace, but as a debt to be paid to the laborer. This is a very simple but important truth for us to grasp.

- ☞ However, it is of utmost importance that we never confuse the *earned rewards* of our heavenly inheritance with the *free gift* of eternal life.

In the first lesson of this Bible course, we learned that salvation is the free gift of God, to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, by faith. One of the clearest passages in the Bible concerning this is found in Ephesians 2.

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:***

“Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9

Another excellent passage of scripture referring to the free gift of salvation is found in I John chapter 5.

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

— I John 5:12-13

By the wonderful grace of God, salvation is a free gift: *it cannot be earned*. We may freely receive this gift from our loving Saviour, because **His** *work alone* has already completely paid for it. Scripture is very clear that **our** *works*, with their attending rewards, have nothing at all to do with the salvation of our souls.

THE CHRISTIAN'S INHERITANCE

As necessary preparation for this study, we must establish the difference between the *kingdom of Heaven* and the *kingdom of God*, as found in the Bible. This is imperative because there are some who teach that the two are the same, leading to a host of doctrinal errors. (We will do an in-depth study of this subject in a future lesson, but now we only need to establish from the Bible that these two kingdoms are not the same, but are definitely different.)

Let's examine these two in more detail:

☞ **The Kingdom of Heaven**

This is a literal, visible, physical kingdom in which Christ will actually reign upon this earth as king, sitting upon a literal throne. This divine reign will last 1,000 years. (cf. Daniel 2:44; 7:27; Luke 1:30-33; Revelation 11:15; 20:1-6)

☞ **The Kingdom of God**

This is the one we are concerned about in this lesson. It is a spiritual, invisible, moral, righteous kingdom. We became part of it by the new birth, when we received Christ as our Saviour. Being a spiritual kingdom, it cannot be seen. And, we understand from Paul's letter to the Romans that it is NOT connected with physical things. Luke also confirms that it is NOT an outward kingdom, but a kingdom within us.

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

— *Romans 14:17*

“Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo, there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” — Luke 17:21

So, it seems clear that this is a spiritual kingdom; and the book of Matthew tells us that it is connected with God's righteousness.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

— Matthew 6:33

Christ imputes *His* righteousness to every believer as they enter into this *spiritual kingdom* by a *spiritual rebirth*.

In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus:

*“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (PHYSICAL BIRTH) and of the Spirit (SPIRITUAL BIRTH), he **cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**”*

— John 3:5

At the moment of our *spiritual rebirth*, the Holy Spirit *also* placed us into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13) and seated us in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6). All these things have to do with the *spiritual kingdom of God* we have become part of. Though we are in it *now*, we cannot see it *now*. We can only *enter this kingdom* in the spiritual sense at the present time (John 3:5). But when Christ returns to reign upon the earth, the kingdom of God will become a literal, visible, physical kingdom that we *can* see. Having merged with the *kingdom of Heaven*, it will then be made manifest.

“And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.”

— Luke 19:11

While we know it has not appeared *yet*, we are just as sure that it *will*, one day. Now look at the parallel passage in John 3 and notice the difference in the wording:

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.”*
— John 3:3

- John 3:3 says a man “cannot **see** the kingdom of God,”
- But John 3:5 says a man “cannot **enter** the kingdom of God”

We see, then, that these are two different things. *Spiritually speaking, we enter* the kingdom of God when we are born again. But, later on (when Christ returns) both kingdoms will be manifest upon the earth as one physical kingdom we can actually *see*. Verse 5 has to do with the *inheritance* in the kingdom of God we have not received yet, and that is what we are going to study in this lesson. So while we *do* have eternal life *right now*, as a present possession (John 3:18,36; John 5:24; I John 5:12,13), we cannot receive our divine inheritance until we get our new glorified body.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”
— I Corinthians 15:50

For now, we are trapped in bodies of *flesh and blood* that cannot *inherit* the kingdom of God, but when His literal earthly kingdom is established, we will have a new glorified body like our Saviour; *flesh*, but no *blood*. Compare I Corinthians 15:50 with Luke 24:39.

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”
— Luke 24:39

I Corinthians 15:50 shows clearly that “*flesh and blood*” **CAN**-NOT inherit this spiritual, heavenly kingdom. But Luke 24:39 shows that Jesus did have “*flesh and **bones***” **AFTER** the resurrection. We see then that *flesh and bone* **CAN** enter this kingdom, while *flesh and blood* **CANNOT**. *Flesh* can, *bone* can, but *blood*

cannot. So it is clear that we cannot receive our inheritance until we get our new glorified bodies.

What is Our Heavenly Inheritance?

What makes up the believer's inheritance? There are two parts. One part is fixed and has already been secured for us; the other is variable and must be earned by us.

I. Part of it is Already Fixed

The part that is already fixed, is secure and is already waiting for us in Heaven. Praise God, we cannot lose it!

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance [IT IS OURS ALREADY, WE JUST HAVEN'T RECEIVED IT YET] being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

— Ephesians 1:11

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you.

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

— I Peter 1:3-5

Because this part of our inheritance is *already reserved* for us in Heaven, there are two things we are going to get for sure:

1. A glorified body (like the Lord Jesus Christ).
(cf. Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:20,21; I John 3:1,3)
2. A mansion in Heaven (John 14:1-3). All of Revelation 21 is about the New Jerusalem which will come down from Heaven. It is the new city believers will live in one day.

II. The Variable Part of Our Inheritance

This second part of our inheritance must be *earned*. Therefore we do not know for certain all that we will receive— we will have to wait until that glorious day to see just what has been accounted to this variable part of our inheritance.

God promised Abraham that he and his seed (descendants) would inherit the world (Romans 4:13). As believers, we are promised a *share* in *that* inheritance because the Bible says *we too* are Abraham's seed (Galatians 3:29). We are not Abraham's physical seed of course, but we are his *spiritual seed*. We became spiritual Jews (Romans 2:28-29) when we were adopted as the sons of God. Therefore, part of our inheritance will consist of a literal reign with Jesus Christ upon this earth. It will last for 1,000 years after He establishes His visible *kingdom of Heaven* on Earth.

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” — Revelation 5:10

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” — Revelation 20:6

Throughout the Old Testament, *God promised the children of Israel* that they would one day possess a land upon the earth, but they never did get it. However, we know that they *will* get it when Christ sets up His Millennial (1,000 year) kingdom on earth.

- *The Old Testament saints* had to earn this inheritance.
- *The tribulation saints* will have to earn this inheritance.
- *We (the church age saints)*, also have to earn whatever part of this inheritance we expect to receive.

While we cannot lose our salvation (eternal life), we can lose *the right to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ during the Millennium*. We do not want to lose our inheritance, because it will be an inconceivably wonderful reward, accompanied by power and honor. Many Christians know nothing about this precious Bible doctrine or about *how* to earn their inheritance; therefore, they live their whole Christian life adding nothing to their divine legacy. When they stand before the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, where rewards are given out, they will find they have lost the right to reign with Christ. During that 1,000 year reign, the earth will again be like the Garden of Eden, and the bride will enjoy a 1,000 year honeymoon with the Lord Jesus Christ. In this lesson, we will learn from the Bible how to earn this part of our inheritance. Let's be sure we get our part of this wonderful reward by working for Jesus all the days of our lives. The Bible tells us *how* we can earn this part of our inheritance.

A. The First Element Is Our Service To Christ.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

*“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive **the reward of the inheritance:** for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

— Colossians 3:23-25

We can add to our reward by faithfully serving Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, *“ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:”* The *reward* he is speaking of is not salvation, because salvation is not a reward or an inheritance— it is a *free gift*. We must distinguish between the free gift and the reward. One can be lost, but the other cannot.

Verse 23 says *“do it heartily, as to the Lord, and **not unto men.**”* Any work done for recognition or the praise of men, is done in vain and will earn us nothing. We are to *magnify* the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do, and never ourselves.

I Corinthians 3 indicates that believers will stand before the *Judgment Seat of Christ* to be rewarded for the things done in their bodies. There we will learn what rewards we have laid up in *Heaven* and what has been lost.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

*“Every man’s work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the **fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.***

“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

“If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

— I Corinthians 3:11-15

Paul does not say “*the fire shall try every man’s work... to see how much work he had done.*” Rather, the trial is to determine “*of what sort*” the work is. God is looking for quality, not quantity. So when we do things for the Lord, we must do them “*heartily, as unto the Lord.*” **Notice** that the fire burns up the believer’s **works**, *not the believer himself* (vs. 15). Our faithful service to the Lord will lay up gold, silver, and precious stones for us, while the wood, hay, and stubble represent *our dead works* (things done according to our fleshly desires). When the purging fire comes across the precious fruit of our labor, all the wood, hay and stubble of our lives will be burnt up. Only the gold, silver and precious stones will be left to become part of our earned reward.

- ☞ It is important to remember that Colossians 3:24 is not talking about salvation, because it is not a reward, nor is it a part of an inheritance— it is a gift.

I Corinthians 15:50 says that: “*flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.*” So we know we will not get our inheritance

while we live on this earth in our natural bodies. Our inheritance is something we are still waiting to receive.

God gave us the Holy Scriptures to teach us about Himself and how we should live for Him. If we will read them, we will learn how we should serve Him, and what He wants us to do for Him.

- For example, Colossians 3 is a chapter that tells us all kinds of things the Lord wants us to do.
- Another example is I Thessalonians 5.

It is a good idea to mark each verse the Lord especially brings to our attention and try to *do* what it says. If we do not study the word of God, we will not learn how to serve Christ, and we will miss a wonderful part of our future inheritance. It grieves the Holy Spirit that many Christians have attended Sunday School classes for 30, 40, or even 50 years (ever since they were children), but still know little or nothing about their great inheritance or the other precious Bible doctrines. Many know only the basic Bible stories about Jonah and the whale, or Joseph, or Jacob and Esau, but have never learned how to *serve* Christ. To their great sorrow and loss, they will wind up at the *Judgment Seat of Christ* with little or nothing to show for their lives on earth. It will be no one's fault but their own, because they had the word of God and they had the Holy Spirit to give them understanding. Don't be just a statistic, a believer whose life produces nothing for themselves or for God. Take heed to what James says, and "*be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only*" (James 1:22).

B. The Second Element In Earning Our Inheritance Is Suffering For Christ.

Paul tells us that:

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; [NOTICE THERE IS A CONDITION] IF so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

— Romans 8:16-18

Romans 8:17 says the children are “*heirs*.” Imagine a millionaire who has written his last will and testament. If he wanted to, he could exclude his son from his will, and deny him part of the inheritance. That would not make the boy any less a son, because nothing could change the fact that he *was* his son, by *birth*. It is the same with believers. *Born* into God’s family, we are God’s sons. If we turn away from Him to a life of sin, God will deny us our inheritance, but nothing can change the fact that we are His sons.

Romans 8:19-22 has to do with the curse being taken off the animal kingdom when Christ reigns upon the earth in His millennial kingdom (cf. Isaiah 11). We know too, that the redemption of the believer’s body takes place at the rapture of the church (Romans 8:23). So we see from the context of this passage of scripture, that Paul is speaking of the time of the *Millennium*. In this context, *suffering* is mentioned in connection with our divine inheritance.

What was Paul thinking about when he used this word “*suffer*?” Well, suffering can be emotional or physical. One definition of the word *suffer* in Webster’s dictionary is “*to bear what is inconvenient*” or “*to endure things*.” If we serve Christ, and do our best to live a godly life, we *are* going to suffer *some* persecution—the world will make sure of that (II Timothy 3:12). Paul suffered this sort of persecution because he was a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

— II Timothy 3:12

We have this promise from God, that if we try to live godly in Christ Jesus we *will* suffer some persecution. It is by this suffering that we earn this part of our future inheritance. Our persecution could also be physical, as in the early days of Christianity when Rome tortured and killed so many Christians.

As an example of this, see Acts 5:

“And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

— Acts 5:40-42

In this instance, the apostles were beaten and told not to speak in the name of Jesus anymore. Afterwards, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ, and they continued teaching and preaching about Him. In this, they earned an inheritance. We don't see this sort of thing taking place in America today, but it could happen in the future. We very well may find that before we die, we will have an opportunity to suffer physical persecution for the Lord Jesus Christ.

“And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

*“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to **suffer** for his sake;*

“Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.”

— Philippians 1:28-30

A study of the apostle Paul's life shows clearly that he suffered for the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Bible says that he is an

example of the way a believer should suffer. The Lord Jesus Christ also suffered, and I Peter 2 tells us that *He is our example* regarding suffering also.

*“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that ye should follow his steps:”*
— I Peter 2:21

In the future we may well expect more physical suffering to fall upon the servants of Christ, as in past centuries. It will certainly be that way during the *Great Tribulation* (although the body of Christ, the New Testament Church, won't be there). In fact, the real persecution of believers may begin *before* the rapture of the church. Things could get tough in a hurry for real Christians.

Having discussed physical persecution and its reward, let's think for a moment; are there any other ways we may be made to suffer persecution and still earn this inheritance? Yes, for one thing, we can win this part of our inheritance by enduring hardship (one of the definitions of the word *suffer*). When we are mistreated, undergoing trials of mental distress, or enduring emotional abuse because of our testimony for Christ, our flesh is afflicted, because it does not want to be subjected to those things. We *will* encounter these afflictions if we go out on the streets and distribute gospel tracts, go door to door and witness for Christ, rebuke sin in the people that we work with, or get out on the street and preach (cf. Matthew 10:38; 16:24; Luke 9:23; 14:27; Galatians 6:14). If we deny our flesh and obey the Holy Spirit we will suffer some persecution—Satan will see to that.

C. The Third Element In Earning Our Inheritance Is Steadfastness In The Faith—Not Denying Christ.

It should be quite clear from the scriptures that there are some who get saved, but later return to the world and deny Christ. If they were truly born again, these people are just as much the sons of God as we. They will be in Heaven, but having

denied Christ they will lose part of their inheritance. They were ashamed of Christ and unwilling to endure the fiery trials that this life holds for believers (Romans 10:11; Luke 9:26; I John 2:28; I Peter 4:16). Although the Lord Jesus Christ will also be ashamed of them, they will not lose their salvation.

See what Paul says:

*“Therefore, I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus **with** eternal glory.”* — II Timothy 2:10

Notice the two things Paul says may be obtained:

1. “Salvation which is in Christ Jesus”
2. “Eternal glory” which is an earned reward. (Compare this with Romans 8:18, which speaks of “*the glory that **shall** be revealed in us.*”)

☞ **Salvation is the free gift of God,**

☞ **But the eternal glory has to be earned.**

Now let’s look at two verses used by those who would try to convince us that it is possible for born again believers to lose their salvation.

“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him [AND IF WE’RE SAVED, OUR FLESH IS DEAD WITH CHRIST] we shall also live with him:

*“**If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:** [THAT IS OUR INHERITANCE; A REIGN WITH JESUS CHRIST DURING THE millennium] **if we deny him, he also will deny us:**”*

— II Timothy 2:11-12

Some believe the phrase “if we deny him, he also will deny us,” means that, some **believers** may get up to Heaven and

knock on the pearly gates asking, “*Lord, Lord, let me in,*” only to hear Him say, “*Depart from me... I never knew you*” (Matthew 7:23). But, that is not what these verses in Matthew and II Timothy teach at all. In order to try to teach this, one must take these verses completely out of their context. Furthermore, to teach the heresy that a *Church-Age* saint can lose his salvation; to say that he could still go to Hell because of the way he lived after he became a Christian, is to call Jesus Christ a liar. When a man gets saved during this present age of grace, the Lord *does* know him. At the moment we are born again we become part of “*his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*” (Ephesians 5:30). Moreover, we are promised by the Lord that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). If the Lord were to say, “*I never knew you,*” that would be an outright lie. What Paul is talking about in II Timothy 2:12 is not that the Lord is going to deny someone to go to Heaven, nor that they will lose their salvation. He means that the believer who denies Christ will be denied part of their inheritance (the right to reign with Him in the *Millennium*). It is right there in the context of the verse: “*If we **suffer**, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.*” He will deny them *the right to **reign*** with Him. Shamefully, there are many born again Christians who deny Christ the right to *rule* their life. When their faith is tried they return to the world. They have denied Christ, and He will deny them part of their inheritance.

We see an example of this in Paul's letter to Timothy.

“*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...*”
— II Timothy 4:10

That's an example of a believer denying Christ and going back into the world. Paul goes on to warn Timothy that others would depart from the faith as well, especially “*in the latter times.*”

“*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils:*” — I Timothy 4:1

That is addressed to believers. It does not say “*some shall lose their salvation;*” it says “*some shall depart from the faith.*” Many people deny Christ and depart from the faith, but they do not lose their salvation— they lose their inheritance. Look back at II Timothy 2, and continue reading at verse 13. Paul makes a remarkable statement about those who had denied Christ.

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”
— II Timothy 2:13

That’s one of the strongest verses in the Bible on eternal security. It teaches us that even if we decide we are no longer willing to endure the hardship or take the persecution that comes with being a Christian— even if we go back into the world, like Demas — even if we decide that we just do not believe Christ anymore— even if we are not faithful to our Saviour, Christ is faithful, because “*he cannot deny himself.*” What a wonderful Saviour He is, who will not deny even the unfaithful once they are His!

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall **never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*

— John 10:27-28

Those who have received the gift of eternal life shall never perish: we are *in* His hand. We are not only *in* Christ’s hand, but we are also *part of* His hand (Ephesians 5:30-32). You see, our salvation doesn’t depend upon *our faithfulness to Christ*; it depends upon *His faithfulness to us*. He will abide faithful *forever*, and if we have been born again, we need not fear, because He is in us and we are in Him— we are safe forever. Since He cannot deny himself, we are just as secure in our eternal salvation as He is in His eternal power.

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”
— I John 4:17

If we want to reign with Christ, we will have to suffer for Him. We will have to endure the hardships, trials, persecution, and abuse— without denying Him. *We must not quit*, like Demas— *we must not cease* to attend church, read our Bible, pray, or distribute gospel tracts— *we must not deny* Him the service we should render unto Him. *We must* continue to do the best we can; living by faith and doing His blessed will. Then when we get to the *Judgment Seat of Christ* we will have our reward— the right to reign with the King of kings and Lord of lords during the *Millennium*.

D. The Fourth Element In Earning The Right To Reign With Christ Is Living A Clean, Holy Life.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks.

*“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any **inheritance in the kingdom** of Christ and of God.”*

— Ephesians 5:1-5

We entered the *kingdom of God* by means of the new birth, but in order to earn our inheritance for the millennial kingdom we must separate ourselves from the world and live clean, holy lives. We must deny the desires of the flesh. The word *“Covetousness”* (verse 3) means a strong desire to possess something we don't have.

It is in violation of Colossians 3:2, which says:

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
— Colossians 3:2

Covetousness is mentioned again in Colossians 3:5:

*“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.**”*
— Colossians 3:5

So, we see from Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5 that *covetousness is idolatry*. The definition of idolatry is: *the worship of anything made by man, or anything that is not God; an excessive attachment for anything other than God*. If we have that problem, it could cause us to lose our inheritance (not our salvation, but our inheritance, our reign with the Lord Jesus Christ). It is not wrong to have some earthly possessions, but it is wrong to covet them. When we do, we have put those things before the Lord Jesus Christ. Our worldly possessions should mean absolutely nothing to us in comparison with our love for Christ and our service to Him. But if we allow our *fleshly desires* to control the way we live and the way we spend our time and money, then those desires have kept us from following the desire of the Holy Spirit. *His desire* is that we allow Him to control our lives, and that we follow after the will of God.

The Bible says:

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

— Romans 6:6, 11-13

If we reckon our old man (the flesh) to be dead, then there will be no conflict. Conflict comes when we begin to give heed to the desires of the flesh once again and yield ourselves to serve it.

Now, let's look now at another passage of Scripture on *clean living* from Galatians chapter five. It is important that we understand these well known passages of Scripture from Romans 6 and Galatians 5, because they are the ones most often used to deceive the child of God into believing that he can lose his salvation. But these verses *do not* teach that at all. As sincere students of the word of God, we must learn the difference between the salvation of our soul and our earned inheritance. Thereby we will have the assurance of God and thereby we will be able to instruct others who are confused by false teachers.

“Now **the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

“Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

— Galatians 5:19-21

It does not say “*they which do such things shall... lose their salvation and go to hell.*” Aimed at believers, it says “*they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” So we see that it is an *inheritance* that is in jeopardy in verses 19-21. Remember, Colossians 3:23 defined the inheritance as being a reward. We know that is not a reference to salvation because

salvation is not a reward— salvation is a free gift. Furthermore, in this context, “*the kingdom of God*” is a literal, visible, physical kingdom. (We will cover this more thoroughly in another lesson.)

The Works of the Flesh

We just read that “*the works of the flesh are manifest.*” The word *manifest* means *evident, obvious or easily perceived*. These works can be plainly seen by the child of God in the lives of others, but we must also be willing to admit when they are manifest in our own lives as well. Covering them up or denying their presence will not help. We must be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to point them out and bring us under conviction of sin. Thereby we may confess them as sin and allow Him to purge them from our lives. Therefore, it is important at this point that we understand the meaning of each of these “*works of the flesh.*”

The works of the flesh are

1. **Adultery**— Most everyone knows what adultery is: the unfaithfulness of a husband or wife to his or her spouse. It is the voluntary act of two persons (at least one of whom is married) having sexual relations (joining flesh to flesh).
2. **Fornication**— This is literally the forsaking of that which is lawful, for that which is not. It applies to the physical realm as well as the spiritual. Any sexual activity, other than that ordained by God within the bonds of marriage, is fornication; an unclean sexual act.

These days the world considers ‘adultery’ and ‘fornication’ to be normal and acceptable, but God still considers it unacceptable— they are *sins* against His holiness. Christians who participate in extramarital sexual activity will reap in the flesh what they have sown in the flesh (Galatians 6:8). They will also lose their testimony, their chastity, their innocence, and part of their inheritance.

3. Uncleaness— This is nothing more than moral or sexual impurity, including anything dirty, obscene, or indecent.

Dirty *thoughts*, dirty *language*, and indecent *dress* all come under the heading of *uncleaness*. A woman can cause a man to commit adultery in his heart because of the way she dresses (cf. II Peter 2:14; Job 31:1; and Matthew 5:27-28). In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus says that “*whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*” Both are guilty, because he committed adultery *together with her*. Many Christian ladies will be surprised as they stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and find they have lost a great part of their inheritance because of this sin. Let’s face it; today, young and old alike dress in clothes that accentuate their feminine forms to make themselves more *sexually appealing*. In doing so they deliberately entice men to sin and commit adultery with them, because they caused them to lust after their bodies.

4. Lasciviousness— This means sexually unrestrained; without limit or control.

We never hear this word used anymore, but it means wild, loose living. It is the stirring up and carrying out the sexual desires of the flesh.

5. Idolatry— Any immoderate attachment or devotion to any person or thing may be considered as idolatry.

Well now, that covers a lot of territory, doesn’t it? As we have already learned from Scripture that “*covetousness*” is idolatry. It is simply putting any *thing* before God. The following definitions will help us to understand more clearly the real meaning of idolatry.

➤ **Coveteousness**— a strong desire for wealth or possessions

➤ **Worship**— to feel an adoring reverence or regard for (any person or thing).

☞ **Idol**— *Old English Definition 1*, from Jewish and Christian use— An image or similitude of a deity or divinity, used as an object of worship. Any thing or person that is the object of excessive or supreme devotion, or that usurps the place of God in human affection.

☞ **Idolater**— (a) A worshipper of idols or images; (b) An adorer, idolizer, *devoted admirer of some person or thing.*

6. Witchcraft— The use of power gained from evil spirits, usually with the aid of drugs. The word “*pharmacy*” comes from the Greek word “*pharmakeia*” that is translated as “*sorceries*” in Revelation 18:23.

This includes the *Ouija* board, *Dungeons and Dragons*, astrology, fortune-telling, seances, and all things of this nature. Furthermore, we read in I Samuel 15:23 that “**rebellion** is as the *sin of witchcraft.*”

7. Hatred— This means intense hostility. It includes a habitual emotional attitude of distaste, coupled with sustained ill will; an intense dislike for someone. Also, enmity or opposition.

We may hate man’s evil deeds, but it is not right for us to hate the sinner himself (cf. Romans 12:18-21; I Thessalonians 5:15; Galatians 6:10). We are *supposed* to hate the things they do, and the things they stand for, and the sins they commit; but we are not to hate the person, for their soul is precious to the Lord, who died for *all*. We should have compassion upon them and manifest the love of God toward them (cf. Matthew 18:31; Luke 10:30-37; Jude 15-25). We are not to take vengeance on them (“*vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*” (cf. Romans 12:19). We are to pray for them, try to get along with them, try to win them to Christ, and try to treat them like the Lord Jesus Christ would treat them if He were here on earth.

8. Variance— This word means dissension, discord, heavy arguments or quarrels that lead to bitterness.

If we are right about an issue, according to the word of God, and the other fellow will not agree with us, we should just drop the matter and let the Holy Spirit handle it. We don't have to compromise our convictions— just let the issue pass and wait for a better opportunity to discuss it. It is wrong to get into a heated argument over it, because we are not going to be able to convince them anyway (the Holy Spirit will have to do that). Too often Christians are at *variance with one another* over doctrine in the word of God, but it only causes bitterness between the believers, and leaves a bad testimony before the unsaved.

9. Emulations— This is envious rivalry (an ambitious desire to excel) or contention between rivals; jealousy. It is seen in the striving to be equal to, or better than others in order to attain carnal recognition.

We are guilty of this if we think ourselves to be more spiritual than other Christians. We should never brag or be proud of any spirituality we attain in life— that does not please God (cf. I Peter 5:5-6; Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10; Galatians 5:26; Matthew 23:12). God does not want us to have the glory for it, for He alone is worthy of the glory (Colossians 3:23).

10. Wrath— This is violent anger.

When we lose our tempers we hurt our testimony before the world, the angels, and other believers. Now the Bible says that *we can be angry*, and not sin (Ephesians 4:26), but that has nothing to do with fits of rage. We might note here the anger of the Lord Jesus Christ when he drove the moneychangers from the temple at Jerusalem (John 2:12-17).¹ In like manner, there are times when it would be sin for us *not* to be angry at sin, but this is a controlled *righteous indignation* not a “*flying off the handle.*”

¹ Note: All new Bible versions make Christ to be a sinner, by deleting the words “*without a cause*” from Matthew 5:22.

11. Strife— Bitter conflict for superiority; cliques and factions may be considered as *strife*. Akin to emulations.

This is all too common today, but God hates strife and contention in the church. (What could we say about this that the Bible has not already said more powerfully in the following passages of scripture Proverbs 13:10; 15:18; 20:3; Luke 22:24; Romans 13:13; I Corinthians 3:3; I Timothy 6:4; James 3:16.)

12. Seditious— Any incitement of resistance, or insurrection against, lawful authority; division is sedition. It is closely connected with rebellion.

There are always some who cause disorder, and organize little clique groups in churches (just general trouble makers); they are guilty of sedition. II Corinthians 1:10 says there should be no divisions in the body of Christ. True believers don't want to be a part of little *cliques* that exclude other believers.

13. Heresies— These are any teachings that are contrary to the truth found in the word of God.

Although they may be truly saved, Christians teaching false doctrine will lose some of their inheritance. There is no excuse for believing false doctrine if we have a King James Bible, believe what it says, and follow scriptural rules for study. Heretics feel at liberty to take verses out of context, and freely take away from or add to the words of Scripture. Denying the authority of the word of God, they set *themselves* up as authorities *above* God's word. Though they may go to Heaven, believers guilty of this sin will lose part of their inheritance for leading God's children astray. If you aspire to be a teacher, *beware*; God's holy word is too precious to trifle with (James 3:1; II Peter 2:1; II Timothy 4:3).

14. Envyings— This is any painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, joined with a desire to possess the same advantage. It is jealousy— coveting another person's belongings or position in life.

We should be satisfied with the things God has provided including our place in the body of Christ.

15. **Murders**— This means to kill unlawfully with predetermined malice.

People who reject the biblical doctrine of eternal security always like to say things such as: “*Do you mean to tell me that you believe a Christian could murder somebody and still go to heaven?*” Well, first of all I must say that I never knew a real born again believer who seriously *wanted* to murder anyone, but the answer to the question is “*If he was in Christ, **yes**, he would go to Heaven.*” That really surprises a lot of people who do not understand the grace of God, the two natures of the believer, and the spiritual circumcision of the soul (cf. lesson 2). Murder is sin, but if we are *in Christ*, brother, we are *in Christ*. Even if a believer died without forgiveness he would not lose his salvation, although he would lose part of his inheritance. If a man is not under the blood of Jesus Christ, even lying would send him to Hell— the Bible says that both murderers *and* liars will go to Hell. Thank God, *all* the believers’ sins are under the blood of Jesus Christ. All the sins we commit *after* we are saved are works of the flesh and they have no effect at all upon our past birth into the family of God.

*“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and **murderers**, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all **liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*
— Revelation 21:8

Show me one Christian who has never told a lie since he got saved. (A lie is anything that deviates from the truth; any little deviation from the truth, even those so-called *white lies*.) Revelation 21:8 says that liars will be in the Lake of Fire with murderers and idolaters.

And what about hatred? Who hasn’t hated someone at some time? The Bible says that if we hate a man in our hearts we are guilty of murder (I John 3:15). Do you realize that Moses killed a

man? Even King David killed a man, and that was a sin for which there was not even a sacrifice. Do you suppose they are in Heaven? What they did was wrong and they paid for it, but it did not change the fact that they believed God, and trusted Him for their salvation.

16. Drunkenness— This is habitual excessive use of alcohol; intoxication; overpowered by liquor.

Proverbs 20:1 says that wine is a mocker and can deceive us. Many a believer being deceived thereby, has lost part of his eternal inheritance.

17. Revellings— This means feasting with noisy merriment; disturbing the peace. A wild party or celebration (*wild*—without regulation or control).

When we come together, it should be to have good, clean fun and bring honor to the Lord Jesus Christ, not embarrassment and shame. If we are doing these things now, or if we have done them since we got saved, we need to confess it to the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to take care of this business, and put our sins under the *blood*. We must forget about them and go on— that is all we can do. I John 1:7-10 is still the instruction we should follow in handling these things.

Notice Philippians 3:

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

— *Philippians 3:13-14*

We can do no more than just confess our sins, put them behind us— forget about them, and go on for God. There is still opportunity to earn that part of our inheritance that remains. The

devil may deceive us and rob us of part of our inheritance, but however much he has stolen, don't let him get the rest.

Every believer must admit that at one time or another he has told a lie. I mean, everyone has deviated from the truth in recounting some experience about themselves or others. It is undeniable: all of us have told lies and have sinned in doing it. Revelation 21:8 says that “**all** liars shall have their part in the lake of fire,” so we must find the explanation for this verse in relation to the believer's eternal security.

To answer this problem, a clear understanding of the doctrine of the *two natures* and the doctrine of the *spiritual circumcision of the soul* is necessary (*cf. lesson 2*). It is obvious from the scriptures that a Christian *can* tell a lie, without being classified as a *liar* (otherwise, there are not going to be many people in Heaven). The list of things we just read in Galatians 5 is called “*the works of the flesh*.” (*Adultery is a work of the flesh, murder is a work of the flesh; as are lasciviousness and drunkenness*). Furthermore, Galatians 5:21 says that “*they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*.” That is speaking of believers and heirs who will lose their inheritance if they do such things. In I Corinthians 6 we see another group of people who are *not* going to inherit the kingdom of God either. However, in the context of I Corinthians 5 we see that these are *lost* people. They are not going to inherit the kingdom of God because they are not *heirs*, they are unsaved, Hell-bound sinners.

Look at I Corinthians 6:

“Know ye not that the **unrighteous** shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

“Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

“And such were some of you: **but ye are washed**, but ye are **sanctified**, but ye are **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

— I Corinthians 6:9-11

The phrase “*And such **were** some of you*” (verse 11) shows us that the “*unrighteous*” people he is talking about (verse 10) are lost people. But we know that in God’s sight, the saved are made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ, and we have received His righteousness and are no longer considered to be *unrighteous*.

Notice the contrast between I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21.

- ☛ The unsaved in I Corinthians 6 are called “*fornicators*” because Paul is addressing them personally. But, in Galatians 5, he is speaking of **works** of the flesh. So the term used there is not “*fornicator*” but “*fornication*.”
- ☛ I Corinthians 6:9 says “*idolaters*,” but Galatians 5 says “*idolatry*” because he is talking about a **work** of the flesh.
- ☛ I Corinthians 6 says “*adulterers*,” but Galatians 5 says “*adultery*.” Do you see what I mean? A Christian can commit the **act** of adultery, yet God does not consider him an adulterer— he is a Christian who committed adultery.

A believer may be guilty of worshipping idols, but God does not call him an *idolater*. Rather, he is a *believer*, who worships idols. You see, the believer’s *soul* is saved, justified, and adopted as a son of God— he is a Christian. A Christian *can* tell a lie, but in God’s sight he is not *classified* as a *liar*. Because he is a child of God he is classified as a son of God who lies. That does not take away from the wickedness of his sin. He *will* reap what he sows, but is not *classified* with the *unsaved*, in spite of his sins. You must understand that! We see in Galatians 5, that all the things listed are *works of the flesh*. What we must remember is that our *souls* are saved and not our *bodies* (our flesh). The *unsaved* who are guilty of those things are considered to *be* those things because their souls and bodies are joined together. *Christians* who are guilty of those things are *not* considered to *be* those

things because they are separated from the bodies by the spiritual circumcision. They are justified and have the righteousness of Christ by His blood. Those who do those works of the flesh *will* lose part of their *inheritance* in the kingdom of God. Can there be any better type for this than the life of Abraham's nephew, Lot?

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman sheds some light on this.²

"... Lot winds up drunk in a cave. He loved sin. He lingered in sin and he wound up drunk and immoral. You say, 'Where is Lot?' Lot is in heaven (II Peter 2:6-8). He's a saved man. Now you unsaved people who believe in salvation by works and experiences and emotions, you can't take that kind of Bible doctrine. Second Peter 2:6-8 says that Lot was a just and righteous man who vexed his righteous soul with the conversation of the wicked.

Lot is a picture of a Christian who loses all that he has at the Judgment Seat of Christ when his works are tried by fire (I Corinthians 3:8-12). Read it. I know you want to continue in the humanistic slop you're in, the emotional, devotional, sharing of your experiences because it is safe, but you can't be a coward forever. You have to face the truth. The truth is the Christian can get in the condition Lot got in and still wind up in heaven. And the truth is many of you are on the same road right now... You have already started down Lot's path."

E. The Fifth Element In Earning This Part Of Our Inheritance Is Loving Jesus.

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom [OUR INHERITANCE] which he hath promised to them that love him?"
— James 2:5

² Theological Studies • Book Twenty • Backsliding p.75 • by Dr. Peter Ruckman • Bible Baptist Bookstore • Pensacola, Florida.

So, our love for Jesus will be proven by the demonstration of the four things we just discussed. It is easy for a man to say he loves Jesus, but James 1:22 says we are to be “doers of the word and not hearers only.” Otherwise we are just deceiving ourselves.

Our inheritance depends on five things:

1. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. Suffering for Christ;
3. Clean living for Christ;
4. Not denying Christ;
5. Loving the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not saved by *our* works; the Lord saved us by *His* work. However, we are saved *to* work, and He expects us to do just that. Now, look at Ephesians 2:8-9 again, but this time *add* verse 10.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

“Not of works, lest any man should boast.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

— Ephesians 2:8-10

Salvation is in verse 8, and Christian living is in verse 10. Christ wants us to work, but the work has nothing to do with our salvation.

This same line of thought is found in Philippians 2.

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

— *Philippians 2:12-13*

Some use verse 12 to teach that we have to work to stay saved, but notice it does not say “work **at** your salvation,” or “work **for** your salvation” (which is not of works, Ephesians 2:8-9). It says “work **out** your own salvation.” That is, we are to put our salvation into practice in our daily lives. This is explained in verse 13, which talks about our works *after* salvation. It is a matter of us crucifying the flesh and letting God work in us.

Speaking of Christ, Paul said:

*“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of **good works**.”* — *Titus 2:14*

The old saying is still very true:

“Only one life to live, t’will soon be past;

“Only what’s done for Jesus will last.”

The Lord will return soon, and we should be thinking more about eternal things. The next prophetic event we are expecting is *the rapture of the church*, and following that is the *Judgment Seat of Christ*.

As the Bible says:

“[I]t is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” — *Hebrews 9:27*

As Christ’s servants, we should prepare for that day of the judgment when we will receive rewards according to our works. It is true, we *are* under liberty in Christ Jesus and all our sins are covered by the blood of the Saviour. They will never be imputed to us (Galatians 5:1,13; Romans 4:4-8), but we will not get away with sin. We will reap what we sow to the flesh, and lose

heavenly rewards (Galatians 6:7-8). It may seem a small thing now, to lose something we cannot see, but in that day those things will mean everything to us.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

— Galatians 6:7-8

It does not say *earn*, it says *reap*. Now, we already have everlasting life, but if we sow to the Spirit or to the flesh, we will reap accordingly. At harvest time we will be rewarded with the fruit of our labor. The Lord calls us to bear our cross now in order to receive a crown later. No cross, no crown— that is just the way it works. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the kingdom of God will be established and made manifest. Our inheritance during that millennial kingdom will be to reign with Jesus Christ with power and authority upon this earth for one thousand years.

Let's look again at Luke 19. This time we will read verses 11 through 27, which teach us about *the kingdom of God*.

“And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

“He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

“But his citizens hated him [THE LOST; HIS SERVANTS ARE SAVED] and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

“And it came to pass, that when he was returned, [THE SECOND ADVENT] having received the kingdom [REVELATION 11:15 WHEN HE TAKES OVER THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD] then

he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

“Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

“And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

“And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

“And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

“And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

“For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

“And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

“Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? [INTEREST]

“And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

“For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

“But those mine enemies [THE UNSAVED PEOPLE FROM VERSE 14] which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.”

— Luke 19:11-27

We will not go into an in-depth study of this parable now, but we do want to notice a few things in the passage.

- In verse 12, the “*nobleman*” is a type of Christ, and the “*far country*” is a type of Heaven. The mention of the nobleman’s return is a reference to the Second Advent.
- In verse 13, we must note that “10” is the number for the Gentiles in scripture, and of course “*pounds*” is a denomination of the British currency. Christ is telling them to occupy during the church age (known as the times of the Gentiles, Luke 21:24) until He comes and takes them out.
- In verse 14, the “*citizens*” are like the Christ-rejecting sinners during the Millennium who go to Hell because they will not submit to Christ and do not want Him to reign over them.
- In verse 15, the “*servants*” are like the believers who will reign with Christ in the Millennium. We will be given authority over literal cities on this earth at that time. In our glorified bodies, we will judge and rule with Him.
- In verse 18, we see a picture of a believer who never amounts to anything for the Lord. He was saved, but never separated himself from the world, never served the Lord, and never grew in the Lord. This man does not lose his salvation, but he does lose his inheritance. He will be on earth during the Millennium, but he will not reign with Christ.

Our reign with Christ depends upon how we serve Him in this life, according to His desire. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, many Christians will seek repentance with tears when they realize that they wasted their whole lives seeking their own desires; but it will be too late then to do anything about it. The Lord has given us a warning about this in Hebrews 12:16-17 in the life of Esau.

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

“For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

— *Hebrews 12:16-17*

According to the Bible there will be no end to the shedding of tears until eternity starts. We see there are still tears in Revelation 7:17. We would place this right after the Judgment Seat of Christ (preceding Christ's Second Advent). Even AFTER the Great White Throne Judgment that takes place just before the beginning of eternity we still read of tears in Heaven (Revelation 21:4).

No doubt this weeping at the Judgment Seat of Christ will come when we see what we could have done for Christ. How disappointed the King was in the parable given in Matthew 22, when his subjects chose not to partake in the feast prepared for his son. And how disappointed God is when we chose not to labor to win the great rewards He has prepared for us in Heaven. It is impossible to imagine the sorrow we shall feel in that day, when we see how much is lost (1 Corinthians 12:3-15). Beloved, we must count as precious those treasures the Lord desires for us and labor to obtain our full reward to the glory of His name.

We are told that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth on the part of those who are cast into fire and outer darkness (Matthew 13:42,50). But, no doubt much of the weeping at the White Throne Judgment will come from the saints of God as we stand and watch those we could have won to Christ drop into the Lake of Fire. It is in the light of such realization, that Paul refers to the Judgment Seat of Christ as a *terror*. Beloved, we dare not take this warning lightly.

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive **the things done in his body**, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

*“Knowing therefore **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”*

— II Corinthians 5:10-11

Tragically, many believers will be *ashamed* when Christ returns!

See what John says:

*“And now little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be **ashamed** before him at his coming.”* — I John 2:28

We see from the context that this is the rapture of the Church.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

— I John 3:1-3

It will be a sad day for many of God's people, when they find that they will not receive their full reward.

John speaks of this in II John:

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” — II John 8

The *reward* he is talking about is the believer's inheritance. Now, one might say, “I don't care anything about reigning over cities and having authority in the millennium.” But, dear friend,

we will think differently about things then. When we get our glorified, perfect, sinless bodies with all their magnificent glory and power, we will also be given a mind like Christ. Reigning with Christ may seem unimportant to us *now*, because of the inability of our earthly, human minds to comprehend such a mystery, but it *will* mean a great deal in that day. Paul tells us just a little about the glory that shall be revealed in us in that day in the verses below.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
— Romans 8:18

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

— I Corinthians 2:9

Even though we have but a tiny glimpse of it, we must confess that it has to be marvelous beyond any comparison. How could the beloved of the Lord say to the bridegroom that she has no interest in all of the things He has labored to prepare for her in glory? Oh no! When our Prince shall come, we shall desire these things with all our hearts and imagination. I beg you, do not let that day be a terror to you, but a time of joyous delight when our blessed Saviour will take great pleasure to bestow upon His faithful ones the reward of a joint reign with Him in the kingdom of Heaven!

A Reference Chart for Your Bible

Following is a chain reference chart you can copy or cut out and paste in the back of your Bible. It compares our SALVATION in the *Kingdom of God* with our INHERITANCE in the *Kingdom of Heaven*. We will begin with Romans 8:17. Turn to that passage of Scripture and write the next verse, II Timothy 2:10-12, in the margin beside verse 17. Continue to do each verse like this until the chain is completed with the last verse in the chart. Then we

can simply turn to the first reference, and we will be able to continue through the chain of references to teach others about this blessed Bible doctrine.

Salvation	Inheritance
Free— Romans 5:15-18	Earned— Romans 8:17; II Timothy 2:10-12; Colossians 3:23-25
Cannot be lost— Ephesians 4:30	Can be lost— Galatians 5:19-21
Gift— Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9	Reward— Colossians 3:24
Present Possession— John 3:36; 5:24; I John 5:12-13	Future Possession— I Corinthians 15:50
Enter the kingdom of God— John 3:5	See the kingdom of God— John 3:3; Luke 19:11

LET'S REVIEW

Introduction pp. 1 & 2

Consider the statements below, paying special attention to the word or words in **bold**. If the statement is true, write the word "True" in the blank. If the statement is false, cross out the incorrect bold word(s) and write the correct word(s) on the blank.

1. _____ The Kingdom of God is a **physical** kingdom.
2. _____ Christ will reign as King for **100 years** in the Kingdom of Heaven.
3. _____ According to Luke 17:21 the **Kingdom of Heaven** is within the believer.
4. _____ According to Matthew 6:33 the **Kingdom of God** has to do with God's throne.
5. _____ The Kingdom of God is entered by the **physical birth**.
6. _____ We will **see** the Kingdom of God when Christ sets up the Kingdom of Heaven.
7. _____ Both the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven will be together **on earth** during Christ's reign.

What Is Our Heavenly Inheritance? pp. 3-36

Fill in the blanks

1. There are two parts to the believer's inheritance. One is _____ for us; the other must be _____ by us.
2. We cannot _____ that fixed part that is already waiting in heaven for us.
3. The two things included in the *fixed* part are a _____ and a _____ in heaven.
4. The second part of our inheritance will be awarded during Christ's 1000 year reign on _____ .
5. This Millennial inheritance is not automatic; it must be _____ .
6. List the ways in which a Christian can earn a Millennial inheritance in the order given in the booklet.
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

 - c. _____

 - d. _____

e. _____

7. Read the scripture references below then write the correct corresponding letter from above (a-e) to which the references refer.

_____ Ephesians 5:1-5	_____ Romans 8: 16-18
_____ Colossians 3:23-25	_____ James 2:5
_____ Philippians 1:28-30	_____ Romans 6:6,11-13
_____ II Timothy 2:10	_____ I Corinthians 3:11-15

8. Concerning our works, God is looking for _____ not quantity.

9. In I Corinthians 3:11-15 the fire burns up the believer's _____, not the believer.

10. In everyday Christian life, distributing tracts, witnessing, and street preaching are likely to bring some _____ for Christ.

11. Salvation is a free gift but _____ must be earned.

12. Christians who deny Christ do not lose their salvation but they do lose their _____.

13. Galatians 5:19-21 lists _____ works that even a Christian can commit.

14. Match the works of the flesh with their definitions.

_____ adultery	a. excessive use of alcohol
_____ fornication	b. violent anger
_____ uncleanness	c. moral impurity
_____ idolatry	d. unfaithfulness to your spouse
_____ emulations	e. sustained ill will

_____ lasciviousness	f. forsaking that which is lawful; physically, sexually, or spiritually
_____ variance	g. dissension, discord
_____ strife	h. sexually unrestrained
_____ hatred	i. insurrection against lawful authority
_____ heresies	j. kill unlawfully with malice
_____ seditions	k. devotion to something besides God
_____ envyings	l. using power gained from evil spirits
_____ murders	m. teaching contrary to the word of God
_____ drunkenness	n. bitter conflict for superiority
_____ revellings	o. jealousy
_____ wrath	p. disturbing the peace, wild partying
_____ witchcraft	q. ambitious desire to excel

15. *“For we must all appear before the _____ of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his _____, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the _____ of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.” — II Corinthians 5:10-11*

16. *“Look to yourselves, that we _____ not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full _____.” — II John 8*

Gloryland's

New Christian Series

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