

007 - An Inheritance Part 3 - Ephesians 1:12-13 - 2014-07-06

Call to Worship: Hebrews 10:23-25

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18:1-6

Sermon: "An Inheritance - Part 3" Ephesians 1:12-13

Benediction: Romans 15:13

Ephesians 1:11-14 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, (12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (13) In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

INTRODUCTION

The bible tells us to bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ!

All of these blessings come to us by our being in Christ, so that we are accepted by God because we are in the Son that He loves, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is all to the praise of the glory of His grace!

Two weeks ago we began studying one of those blessings---an inheritance, in which God has caused us to have a share in all good things since we are with God in Christ as adopted sons.

Last we studied why we have a share in the inheritance, or how we came to have a part in that inheritance. We found that God's word says that:

God caused us to obtain an inheritance by predestining us to it according to His purpose; put another way, He worked it according to the counsel of His will.

Today we work to see why He did it that way. Would you think with me through some of the questions this raises:

1. God caused us to obtain an inheritance; God worked this as He does all things.

Why did He do it that way, instead of allowing us to obtain an inheritance for ourselves, allowing us to do something to earn it for ourselves?

Why is it that God worked, causing us to get the inheritance, rather than giving us work we could do to get the inheritance?

2. God predestined us to obtain an inheritance; this was His judgment in counsel with only Himself.

Why did He do it that way, instead of allowing us to choose our own destiny, instead of letting us determine it by our counsel?

If my eternal destiny was being decided, why wasn't I even asked what I thought? Why is it that He decided who would get the inheritance, and who would not, and the people involved didn't get any say in the matter?

3. God caused us to obtain an inheritance according to His purpose, according to His will. Why did He do it that way, instead of letting us have an inheritance or not have it according to our own purpose, according to our own will? Man has a will. Man chooses things by his own will. Why did God grant to some people the inheritance, while denying to others, by His own will, not by ours?

You know, the answers to these questions get right at the heart of what it means to be a protestant church or protestant instead of being a Roman Catholic church or individual Catholic.

These answers also get right at what it means to be a reformed church or person instead of being an Arminian.

More immediately to many of us, the biblical answer to these questions sadly separates us from the other Baptists around us. Historically, from 400 years ago to 100 years ago, the English-speaking Baptists, including the Baptists groups here in America and in the South and in Texas recognized the right, biblical answer to these questions. That changed during the 20th century, though, so that now, to give the right, biblical answer to these questions in a typical Baptist church around here makes you sound like a rank heretic to people because they are so used to hearing what is false and so un-used to hearing what is true.

So, why, did God grant us the inheritance in just the way that He did?

He did it that way so that we who trust in Christ should not be to the praise of our own glory, but should be to the praise of His glory.

READ THE TEXT

Ephesians 1:12-14 THAT; SO THAT; IN ORDER THAT

BODY

He did it that way so that we who trust in Christ should not be to the praise of our own glory, but should be to the praise of His glory.

The apostle states this important point twice, first more briefly, then at more length, in referring to those who believed in Christ first, and those who believe

I. First, stated in very few words (v. 12)

“that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ”

- A. the apostle names a group of people as those who first hoped in Christ, or first trusted in Christ;
- B. He seems to mean those Jewish believers of the first few years of the gospel, who believed before the wholesale taking of the gospel to the rest of the world; those who believed when no one else in the whole world did; those who believed when the Jews stoned Stephen to death and Saul of Tarsus was going from city to city dragging them off to prison
- C. There would certainly be a temptation to give them some kind of praise for having a part in the inheritance; because they were first to hope in Christ, to trust in Christ, even as such a tiny minority and against such cruel opposition
 - 1. the Gentiles might be tempted to give them such praise
 - 2. they themselves, especially those of the Pharisees, certainly would be tempted to praise themselves
- D. The bible here teaches us all that even those who were the first to believe in Christ were not to be praised, because those who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of God's glory
- E. This is the reason God gave them their inheritance the way He did---so that they would be to the praise of His glory
- F. If their faith in Christ was by their own work, or by their own counsel, or by their own will, then it would be right to give praise to their glory
- G. But their believing in Christ was not of themselves
 - 1. God worked in them the faith---it was His work;
 - 2. God predestined them to have that faith---it was His counsel;
 - 3. God purposed that they should believe---it was His own will.
- H. That's what verse 12 is saying: God did it the way He did it so that those who first trusted in Christ should not be to the praise of their own glory, but should be to the praise of His glory.

II. Second, stated in more words (v. 13)

- A. Note the main idea repeated
 - 1. Paul has already said "we should be to the praise of His glory"
 - 2. Now he says, "In Him you also . . . to the praise of His glory"
- B. Note the main idea amplified to show how our obtaining the inheritance is the work of God, not the work of any of us, so that we are to the praise of His glory
 - 1. In Christ---all our inheritance is because we are in Christ
 - 2. after you heard---the message was told to us; we received it as a gift
 - 3. the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, which is all about what God has done for us in Christ
 - a. He died for our sins
 - b. He was buried
 - c. He rose the third day
 - d. Now there is forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who believe in Him and repent of sin to become His disciples

4. you believed

- a. understand the essence of what is meant by this: to believe, to have faith, is not to do any work of your own, but to trust in the work of someone else, namely the Lord Jesus Christ
- b. but “believing” is something we in some sense “do” ourselves instead of simply having it done for us. e.g. Christ died for us, but Christ did not believe for us; instead, God worked in us by His Spirit so that we could and would ourselves believe
- c. this aspect of faith or belief, the fact that it is something we do, makes it at point at which our enemy tempts people to think of faith as something we have control of, and wield according to our own will, so that if we put our faith in Christ, we have done something praiseworthy;
 - i. we have done something that was our own work, not the work of God
 - ii. we have done something that was by our own determination, not by predestination by God
 - iii. we have done something that was purely by our own will, not by the will of God
- d. understand the implications of thinking that way
 - i. if anyone ever did anything that was his own doing, and not the doing of God, that person would be worthy of praise
 - ii. if anyone ever did anything that was by his own determination, and not predestined by God, that person would be worthy of praise
 - iii. if anyone ever did anything purely by his own will, that was not by the will of God, that person would be worthy of praise
- e. so we must not think of even our believing in Christ, even our faith, in that way
 - i. even though believing is something we do, our believing, our faith, is essentially a work of God, not a work of man
 - ii. even though believing is something we determine to do, we were predestined to it by God long before we were ever born
 - iii. even though we willingly believe in Christ, it is our will to believe only because it originally was God’s will for us to believe

5. you were sealed with the Holy spirit of promise

- consider this idea of being sealed
 - authenticated
 - protected from tampering
- the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession
 - in one sense we already have been redeemed, payed for
 - in another sense, we wait for the redemption, since our bodies are not yet freed

Romans 8:22-25 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (23) Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (24) For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? (25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

CONCLUSION

God caused us to obtain an inheritance by predestining us to it according to His purpose; put another way, He worked it according to the counsel of His will.

Why did he do it that way?

God did it that way so that we who trust in Christ would not deserve any praise to our own glory, but instead would give all praise to the glory of God!

Amen.

- A. you heard - God's doing
- B. the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation - God's doing
- C. you believed - God's doing
- D. you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise - God's doing
 - the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession

1. we observe around us and in our own flesh that man will turn faith into something other than faith and then try to steal glory from God for that faith

we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory

In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation

in whom, also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

who is the guarantee of our inheritance

until the redemption of the purchased possession

to the praise of His glory

Call to Worship: Isaiah 14:24

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 46:8-13

Sermon: "An Inheritance - Part 2" Ephesians 1:11-14

Benediction: Romans 8:31

REVIEW

The blessing of an inheritance---what is meant by an inheritance

A share or part or portion given to us for which we have been chosen by lot.

The blessing of an inheritance---what the inheritance is; what we inherit

In short, since we are with God in Christ, and God owns all things, we have a share in all things

Why do we inherit it?

I. We have obtained an inheritance for the same reason, ultimately, as everything else: it was done for us because we were predestined to it according to the purpose of God

1. it was the purpose of God
2. so he predestined us to it
3. and so we have obtained it

II. How can we be sure this is why? This is the reason why everything happens!

illus:

Q: Daddy, why is the sky blue? A: because God made it blue

Q: Why did He make it blue? A: because He predestined it to be blue

Q: Why did He predestine it to be blue? A: because it is His will for it to be blue

1. all things that happen are God's will to happen
2. God counsels only with Himself as to what will be done in all things
3. so he works all things according to the counsel of His will

APP:

There is a use of the term "God's will" that is not present in the scriptures.

IV. By what means we inherit it - faith

V. For what purpose we inherit it - the praise of His glory

Ephesians 1:11-14 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, (12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (13) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Bayne:

[not a quote] The general truth that God works all things according to the counsel of His will tells us the more specific truth that he works this according to it, also.

Calvin:

In no respect, therefore, are men admitted to share in this praise, as if they brought anything of their own. God looks at nothing out of himself to move him to elect them

being predestined

God predestined us
according to the purpose of

Him who works all things

Hodge:

That control, however, is exercised in accordance with the nature of his creatures, so that no violence is done to the constitution which he has given them.

according to the counsel

Poole:

He acts wisely as well as freely
not by deliberation, which falls beneath his infinite perfection

Gill:

in a wise and prudent manner, in the best way that can be devised

of His will

Hodge:

neither suggested by others, nor determined by anything out of himself

that we who first trusted

Hawker:

In relation to our trust and belief, it should be always carefully remembered, that these acts of ours, are not the cause of our safety and blessedness, but the effect.

Goodwin:

“all things”

natural, moral, contingent, wills of men

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

God can do all things, but he only does what He wills

e.g. He could raise up out of the stones sons for Abraham

three principles of God's working all things whatsoever he works

1. *works*: an omnipotent power, as the thing that executeth and performeth all; he is said to work, and work effectually, so the word signifieth

-God hath an effectual hand in all things: natural, moral, contingent, wills of men

-God can do all things, but he only does what He wills

e.g. He could raise up out of the stones sons for Abraham, but He did not

-whatsoever God will do, that he doth effectually

2. *counsel*: his wisdom, as that which giveth direction both to will and power

-a certain judgment of what is best to do; all that he doth is with the greatest ripeness of judgment, with the highest wisdom

-when he hath pitched his love upon these and these men, then counsel is set a-work indeed, to contrive all ways to shew love to them . . . to manifest the glory of his grace

3. *counsel of his will*: his will and the sovereignty of it, that which giveth the command for a powerful execution

-he doth not go forth of himself for counsel; Romans 11:34 "Who hath been his counsellor?"

-His will is not determined in counsel; all is determined by His will; "He hath mercy on whom he will. and Revelation 4:11 "By thy will all things were created."

-There is no reason why thou shouldest believe, and another no . . . but his will.

page in Goodwin:

<http://www.archive.org/stream/worksofthomasgoo01good#page/216/mode/1up>

---EXCURSUS---

For this all to make sense, you must shed at least two kinds of false ideas about faith: 1. what faith is, and 2. how a person comes to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

a. False ideas about how you came to have faith in Christ, how you came to believe in Him, to trust in Him:

i. I chose to put my faith in Christ

ii. I took a step of faith

iii. I prayed and asked Jesus into my heart

iv. God's first job for every one of us is that we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. That's His first work for us. He gives us grace to do that. It's not our power that does it. It's Him giving us the desire and the power to do His work.

b. true, biblical ideas about how you came to have faith in Christ

i. Jeremiah 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Matthew 13:11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Matthew 11:25-26 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. (26) Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

John 6:65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."