

## Our Inheritance

For the last few Sundays, we have been looking at the specialness of being a child of God. We're elect, chosen. We're called out of the world by the gospel to live spiritual lives in our earthly bodies, led by the Holy Spirit within us. God chose us before the creation of the world to be his children, called by the gospel and obedient to it. As His children, it is our obligation to honor Him, obey Him, praise him, and continually thank him for the gifts we receive from him. He has, as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:3-5,

"given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."

He goes on to say this about our inheritance:

"This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

God has prepared a place for us to live eternally with Him if we remain faithful children of his. Peter also says in 2 Peter 1:3-4:

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

Not only has God prepared a home with Him, He has given us everything we need to change each of us into the spiritual being we are to be. His words, revealed to us by the patriarchs, the prophets, the inspired writers, and most especially by the Word made flesh, Jesus

Christ, tell us how to overcome evil and live as true children of God, eligible for, but not truly deserving of, salvation.

We understand the concept of inheritance as it relates to our earthly life and our earthly ancestors. As faithful, obedient loving children, we are rewarded with whatever our father or mother want us to have. If we are disobedient and rebellious we show our disrespect for our parent and can lose out on our inheritance. Again, everybody understands the concept.

The same is true of our relationship with our Heavenly Father. God created man (His workmanship, his "very good" creation, according to Paul in Ephesians 2:10) to be obedient to Him and honor Him. Ephesians 2:10 says in full:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

We have our obligation. We, because of our love for our creator, will do His work here on this Earth. The obligation, according to the writer of Ecclesiastes, is to

"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."