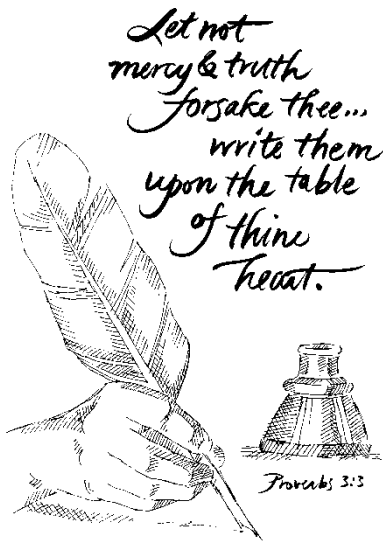


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



MAN'S INHERITANCE

Scripture Texts: 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 2:6-11; Romans 8:16-17

The glimpses we have of the inheritance of saints are so marvelous that it causes us to repeat to ourselves, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him!" Why is not more told of what the next life will be? Could you tell a year-old child what life in this world is?

Sons of a rich father look forward to a rich inheritance. Children of God have a rich Father. A rich inheritance is already willed to them. It is equal to that of Jesus Christ. The inheritance God willed to His children is limitless. The journey, ending in Heaven, begins here. If we are to inherit there, we must become sons here. How can we do this? Let us look to the Word of God for some answers.

MEMORY VERSE: *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

—Romans 8:29

An Inheritance Incorruptible

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God . . . according to his abundant mercy. All we have is by God's mercy; we deserve nothing, have earned nothing. He **hath begotten us again unto a lively hope**—given us spiritual birth as Christ told Nicodemus. The new birth makes one a child of God and so in line for inheriting from Him. We are given the privilege to be a joint heir with Jesus because He was willing to make it so by His death, burial, and resurrection. He said, **Because I live, ye shall live also.** We must live again to receive this hoped-for gift. It lies beyond the grave.

We studied of man's origin, pure and holy, of his shameful fall from that state, of God's plan to save him from sin and death, of the lifting of him into holy sonship through Jesus Christ, and finally, of the hope in Christ of a blessed, eternal life in Heaven. When we think of what this means, it should make us alert to the voice of God that we do not stoop to cheap, unholy lives, shutting out Christ and existing as empty vessels. See **Hebrews 2:1-3.**

1 Peter 1:4-5 An inheritance—the riches willed us are not like earthly riches. They are **incorruptible**, can never spoil or lose value. **Undefiled**, no flaws, no contamination. **That fadeth not away**, never ending. **Reserved in heaven**, all reservations for Heaven must be reserved in this life.

It is for those **kept by the power of God.** Only such are children of God. Only His children inherit from Him. The **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time** is the change that will take place at Christ's coming. Bodies will be made new and immortal. This is our final, finished salvation when we are safely over on the other side of the River of Life.

A Body Like His

1 John 3:2 We shall be like Him. We start becoming like Christ when we are saved from sin here. The perfecting of it will be when we see Him. We will be like Him in knowledge, ability, wisdom, power, glory, and holiness. Those who know the glory of salvation here look forward to more when we **see him as he is.**

Philippians 3:20-21 Our conversation is in heaven. God's people are hid with Christ in God. Their lives are anchored in Heaven. Their citizenship is there. Because it is, Jesus, when He comes, **shall change our vile**

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body to be **like unto his glorious body**. No more death or disease or aging or corruption in it. Not only that, but glorified as is Christ's.

All Things Put Under Him

Hebrews 2:6-11 **What is man?** We see it is man, human people, who are considered here. Man was set over the works of God's hands. We know the dominion that man was given over the earthly creation (**Genesis 1:28**). **Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet**. But **not yet all**. This part is to be done in the future. This great power and authority to be given man is part of the **so great salvation** we are warned not to neglect (**verse 3**). It is to come after the Resurrection. The extent of it is too great for our imagination. **But we see Jesus**. This is enough. The Father gave Him to bring us unto the glory where these will be realized. Jesus, by His death, makes the sanctified (those He saves) and the Sanctifier (Himself) all one. He unites His people with Himself and calls them **brethren**. Those who remain true will inherit with Christ.

What is man? He is the offspring of God (**Acts 17:28**). Man is God's offspring, but the beasts are not. Man bears the image of God, and He has a marvelous plan for man. God put His own life in man, the work of His hands.

Heirs of God

Romans 8:16-17 A part of salvation is the filling with the Holy Spirit when one's heart is opened to Him. **The Spirit itself beareth witness with** the spirit of a saved one, letting him know he is a child of God. They are His heirs to inherit His possessions. **Joint-heirs with Christ**. This means they will inherit equally with Him.

But there are conditions. Yes, we must **suffer with him**. In the faith, patience, and love of the Spirit and for Christ's sake, we must accept any sacrifices, hardships, criticisms, and persecutions that come to us as a result of our service to God. We must hold true to the Lord in spite of them. Those who do so will be **glorified together** with Him. Praise God for His great plan of salvation! So great salvation! Praise God forever!

JUST A THOUGHT

Jesus stooped to man that He might raise man to Him.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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