



“Our Glorious Inheritance” (Eph.1:18; Selected Scriptures)

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Intro: Today’s basics is an aspect of our faith that should keep our focus beyond this present world. We see it mentioned in Hebrews 11:8-10, 24-26, 39, 13-16).

Here’s a reality that I pray all of us come to terms with: There are “worlds” beyond this present world we live in. There is the underworld, and in this underworld there are spirits of people that are tormented in a place called hell. Jesus told a story of a rich man who died and ended up there (Luke 16). Jude 6 speaks of angels kept in darkness and bound with everlasting chains for future judgment (Jude 6). Demons begged Jesus not to send them into a place called “the pit.” Rev.9:1,11 speaks of an angel who has the key to “the bottomless pit.” Rev.20 says that one day Satan will be thrown into “the Abyss” (pit) and bound for 1,000 years (Rev.20:2-3). One definition of the Abyss is “a very deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth used as the common receptacle of the dead and especially as the abode of demons.” Matt.25:41 tells us that hell was created for the devil and his angels.

There’s also a world above us in the heavenly realms where angels ascend and descend (Gen.28:12; Daniel 10:12-14; Eph. 6:12).

Finally, there is a world in what is called the third heaven. Paul the apostle was caught up to this world, and he doesn’t know if he went bodily or just in his spirit (see II Cor.12:2-4). This is where the throne of God is, where the heavenly Jerusalem is (Rev.21:9-21). This is paradise; remember what Jesus said to the thief that had a change of heart and asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom? Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Refer to Eph.4:8.

Our springboard verse: Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the glorious inheritance in the saints.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

I Cor.3:21-22...All things are yours...

Matt.25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your **inheritance**, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”

I Peter 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has 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 – kept in heaven for you.

Eph.1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit

guaranteeing our inheritance...

Resurrection unto eternal life (John 5:29; Rom.6:16; I Cor.15:12-22, 50-55)

- Believers die physically only once
- The unsaved will die twice (Rev.20:6a, 14b)

New body

- An immortal body (I Cor.15:42)
- A glorious body (I Cor.15:43a)
- A powerful body (I Cor.15:43; word is dunamis)
- A spiritual body (I Cor.15:44-58)
 - Luke 24: 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." (Note: Doesn't mention blood).
 - John 20: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Has flesh and bones, yet can walk through walls.
 - Luke 24: 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence. Note: Can eat and drink, yet it seems there will be no need to digest; Dung is unclean, and nothing unclean can enter heaven.
 - I believe we will be able to travel vertically and horizontally in our new bodies (Matthew 22:30 says we will be like the angels; angels ascending and descending, flying; Rev.21:15-16, the new Jerusalem).

Reign with Christ through the millennium (Rev.20:6b)

- Christ reigns from Jerusalem (Isa.9:7b; Micah 4:2)
- Means to exercise kingly power; We will reign over the survivors of The Great Tribulation (Dan.7:12; Matt.24:22).
- No more war (Isa.2:4; Micah 4:3)
- Increasing peace (Isa.9:7a)
- Animal kingdom no longer meat eaters (Isa.11:6-9; 65:25); Busch Gardens comes "home!"
- Salt water fishing becomes fresh water (Ezekiel 47:8-10)

Live forever in new heavens and new earth

- Paradise restored!
- No more death, mourning, crying, or pain (Rev.21:4)
- No sickness
- No sin (Rev.21:27)
- No temptation
- Former things not remembered (Isa. 65:17)

- God dwells among us and we see His glory (John 17:22-24)

My heavenly inheritance will never perish, spoil, or fade (I Peter 1:4)

- Perish
 - Liable to corruption or decay
- Spoil
 - Deformed or debased; force and vigor impaired
- Fade
 - To go away or get old

I Cor.9:25...They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

This present life verses our future glorious inheritance.

- Phil.1:23...I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.
 - I can completely understand how it would have much better for Paul to be with Christ than in the circumstances he found himself. When he wrote this, he was a prisoner. As a Christian, he suffered greatly (read II Cor.11:24-28).
- II Tim. 4:10...Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica...
- Rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30; I Tim.6:9-10)
- Rev.3:14-18
- This brought fresh conviction to me this past week. There was once a time in my Christian life that I did not want my heavenly inheritance right away. I wanted to get married. That's no longer an issue. I wanted to experience being a father, believing I was going to be the best dad in all the world. Let me say, I've been humbled. There are still at times things in this life that war against me longing for my heavenly inheritance, and living in light of it as I should. Now, I think about heaven every day, but that does not mean my life is without spiritual challenges. For example, I make a decent salary, live in a nice house, drive a nice car, own a boat, am still fairly healthy, etc. I live in Florida, on the Gulf of Mexico. Last Sunday evening, my wife and I went to Sea World, stayed overnight. We love Sea World (pics of us at Sea World?). This past week I took my wife out to eat at the beach and watched the sunset (pics of sunset). Viv Laird used to say to me, "Bro, we live in luxury!" Of course Viv lived in Africa for years, some of those years in the heart of the Sudan. That was a far cry from Sea World & the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. Right after my wife and I had dinner on the beach the other night, as we were walking to the car to head home, I put my arm around her and said, "Can you imagine heaven being better than this?" She immediately responded, "Yes!" I wasn't expecting that answer! There's a woman with a true heavenly perspective, but not a woman that knows how to encourage her husband!
- Here's the truth – No matter where we live, or how good we have it in this life, heaven is better! We indeed have a glorious inheritance waiting for us that far surpasses anything we could experience in this life.

CONCLUSION

- Col.3:1-4
- The Painting: The story is told about a widowed man and his son who shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world adding only the finest art treasures to their collection, priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, and many others. At a time of war the son went off to serve his country. After only a few short weeks the father received a knock on his door. His son had been killed while rushing a fellow wounded soldier to a medic. The Christmas holidays were approaching, and this would be perhaps the most difficult Christmas this father had ever experienced. On Christmas morning there was another knock at the door, and again, a soldier was on the other side. He was a young man, and he was holding a large package. He introduced himself as the man his son had rescued in the heat of battle. They had become especially close because he was himself an artist. With that he said, "I did this for you." The father unwrapped the package, and it gave way to a beautiful portrait of his son. Both men wept. Overcome with emotion, the father thanked this young man repeatedly. Afterward, the father moved from above the fireplace what most would consider a painting far more valuable, and replaced it with the portrait of his son. He spent Christmas gazing again and again and what now had become his most priceless work of art.

The following Spring, this father passed away. The art world heard and went into frenzied anticipation. His entire collection was to be sold at auction. His will determined that the collection be auctioned on Christmas day, the day he had received his greatest gift. The auction began with a painting that was not on anyone's list. It was the portrait of the father's son. The auctioneer briefly explained who the portrait was, then asked for an opening bid. The room was silent. Will someone open the bidding for \$100? After a long pause, from the back of the room someone shouted, "Who cares about that painting, it's just of picture of his son." More voices echoed in agreement. But the auctioneer was firm that this one had to be sold before moving on. "Now, who will take the son?" asked the auctioneer. Finally, a friend of the old man said, "Will you take 30 dollars for the painting?" After no one would bid higher, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice, sold!" The gavel fell, cheers filled the room! But to everyone's surprise the auctioneer then said, "The auction is over." And when the auctioneer was finally able to quiet the almost riotous crowd, he said: It was the will of the father that, whoever takes the son gets it all."