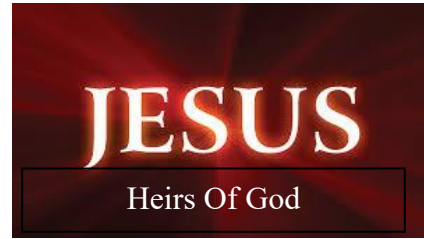


To know Jesus is to know love.
To know Jesus is to know wisdom.
To know Jesus is to know security.
To know Jesus is to know forgiveness and eternal life.



This is why we are studying Jesus.
He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
He is the Best Friend we could ever have because He is a friend in our need and a Friend by His deed.
He will also bring judgment on the wicked one day because a just God meets out justice.

Today,

I want us to see that, as the Bride of Christ, those who accept Him as Savior, will share in all He has.

We are "Heirs of God."

What does it mean to be an heir?

An heir is one who is legally entitled to inherit the assets, property or title of someone who has passed away.

Determined by bloodline, marriage or state law.

Also;

Used to describe someone who continues the legacy, or work of a predecessor.

Therefore;

What does it mean to be an heir of God and joint heir with Christ?

I want to show you 6 aspects of that:

1. Those in God's family are heirs

Rom 8:16 *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

v.17 *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

As a man, Jesus inherits everything the Father has.

As His children, we share in all that Jesus has.

At the moment of our faith in Christ, we were adopted into God's family.

JESUS

Rpm 8:15 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

Four aspects to Roman adoption:

- A. The adopted person lost all rights to his former family and gained all the rights of his new family
- B. He gained a new father and became an heir to his new father's estate, even if other sons were born after him.
- C. All former debts were cancelled and he was regarded as a new person entering into a new life.
- D. He was legally the son of his new father.

2. There are no distinctions in God's family

Gal 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Gal 3:29 *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*

3. The Gospel of Christ reached beyond the Jews to the rest of the world.

Eph 3:4...*the mystery of Christ,*

v.5 *which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;*

v.6 *to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,*

The mystery is being "in Christ," which O.T. believers had no knowledge of.

4. Our justification enables heirship.

Apart from being justified by God, we could never share in Christ's inheritance or even Christ, Himself.

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

v.6 *whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

v.7 *so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

JESUS

This is our adoption into God's family.
You must join God's family on earth to have an inheritance in Heaven.

5. Do you love Him?

Ja 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

It's not that God chooses all poor people but

Mt 5:3 says; Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You see,

The poor in spirit know they need Jesus.

The poor of this world don't look down but they look up.

The broken, regretful and anxious.

Rejected by people, accepted by God.

Condemned by people, forgiven by God.

This is why she poured expensive perfume on Jesus from her alabaster box.

She was brought in where she was formerly cast out.

For this reason;

They are not as concerned with now as they are with later.

It is not thoughts of people that consume them but thoughts of God.

To be an heir with Christ is to know the best is yet to come.

Think of what adoption into God's family means to you:

1. Your sin debt has been paid

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

2. You have a new name

*Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a **new name** written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'*

3. You have a new Father

Mt 6:9 Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

4. You have a new life

II Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

JESUS

5. We are all legitimate "sons of God"

Gal 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*
"sons" receive the double portion

6. Rejoice, if you are an heir of God and fellow-heir with Christ.
Rejoice over your privileges.

Rejoice and be thankful for all God has done.

John's closing words;

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God.

If this is you today – REJOICE!