

# ***Your Inheritance***

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*Slide Notes*

## **Reading of the Will...**

- **Establishes legal heirs**
- **And what each receives**

People want to know two things about a will...

Do I receive something from it?

How much?

Many of you are listed in the will, but there may be some who are not. Will only touch the high points, it's much too long to cover in a single day. This is just an overview. You can find the details, including expectations, responsibilities, etc., in the Bible. It would be good to become very familiar with the benefits and conditions listed in God's will.

## **God's Will**

- **Hebrews 9:14-17 — ...Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. ... so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. (NLT)**

God's will went into effect when Jesus died for us. Though He is now alive, the will is still in effect.

## **Inheritance**

- **Inheritance is given, not earned**
- **Inheritance from God by faith & adoption**
- **If not adopted, have no inheritance from God**

Cannot earn or buy your way into a family — must be born or adopted

## **Are You Listed in God's Will?**

- **1 John 5:11-12 — And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have**

God's Son does not have life.

## If Not Listed, Can't Earn It

- **Romans 3:20-23** — For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. ... For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

## Adoption Comes Through Faith

- **Galatians 3:26** — For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- **Adopted into God's family at the moment of salvation**
- **Like salvation, adoption cannot be earned or lost by your own good works**  
Many people misunderstand Christianity. They think it is about being a good person. It is actually about being adopted into a personal, loving relationship with God. God is the Creator of everyone, but not the Father of everyone. (John 8:41-44)

## Now in God's Family

- **Galatians 4:5-7** — God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child...

## We Really Are His Children

- **1 John 3:1-2** — See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! ... Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

Not just in Heaven, but now! God has great plans for us — way beyond anything we could imagine!

## God Is Now Our Father

- **Romans 8:15-16** — So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

Over and over, God assures us that we have been adopted and He is now our Father. We are now members of His forever family. Since we have been adopted — that means that God has made us acceptable and we are approved by Him in Jesus.

## Made Acceptable by Jesus

- **Ephesians 2:13 — ... Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.**

Our sin disqualified us and separated us from God, who is holy. Don't have to try to earn love and acceptance from God. They are yours through Jesus — He obtained it for you. Trying to earn what has been freely given is insulting.

## Qualified by the Father

- **Colossians 1:12-13 — giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (NKJV)**

God highly values relationship with us — paid a high price for it. The Father, through Jesus, has made you qualified. You have been transferred from one kingdom (of darkness) into another (of light).

## Full, Bold Access To God

- **Hebrews 10:19-22 — And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. ...**

Don't have to wait until Heaven, enjoy the relationship and benefits now!

Don't try to look like what you think He wants you to look like. You must be real and honest for any significant relationship. Trust God, not your own goodness

## Boldly & Confidently

- **Ephesians 3:11-12 — This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.**

Intimate relationship between you and God was always His desire!

God is making a point!

## Needs Met

- **Hebrews 4:16 — So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it**

**most.**

Tend to run and hide when do things wrong — that's the wrong direction. (Adam & Eve)  
Need to run TO God's presence to receive His mercy and grace.

## Made an Heir of God

- **Galatians 4:7 — Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.**
- **Romans 8:17 — And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. ...**
- **So what do we inherit?**

We are listed in the will (or can be). We have been qualified and adopted by God. And if being adopted as God's child and given bold access to a loving relationship with Him was not enough, there is more! Following are some highlights of our inheritance.

## Fulfillment of Promises

- **Hebrews 6:12, 17 — ... Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance. ... God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.**

There are promises for this life (some of which are conditional), and there are promises for eternity.

## Blessings of God

- **1 Peter 3:9 — not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. (NKJV)**
- **Ephesians 1:3, 11 — All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ... Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God ... (NLT)**

Following God's ways brings a blessing. God's ways work and they are blessed!

Many blessings come from simply being an adopted child of God.

## The Kingdom

- **Matthew 25:34 — "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.**

The Kingdom of God which we serve is also our inheritance.

We are not employees of the Kingdom, but part owners! (shepherds, not hirelings)

## Heaven

- **John 14:2-3** — **There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**
- **1 Peter 1:4** — **and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.**

Many of you will pick up your kids after the service today. You cannot just decide to take someone else’s kids because you like them better. Nor can you refuse to pick up your kids because they were “bad”. God will pick up His kids (good and bad) and go home at the end of this age. He will not take any kids that do not belong to Him, even though He would like to.

## Eternal Life

- **Romans 6:23** — **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- **John 5:24** — **“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.**

Eternal life is not just about length of time, but quality of life. Simply living forever would be a curse if it is a poor quality life (addiction, pain, loneliness, etc.).

## God Himself!

- **Revelation 21:3** — **I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.**

This is the greatest thing we inherit! God desires and made a way for us to have an intimate relationship with Him. He doesn’t want to wait until heaven to begin enjoying that relationship.

The goal of all this message...? To see the treasure and be motivated to give all to grab hold of its fullness! (Mat 13:44)

## How to Get “Listed” in the Will

- **Romans 10:9-13** — **If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. ... For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**