

Don Hargrove
Faith Bible Church
July 7, 2014

<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Study of the Bible-86

Galatians 4:7–Believers as heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ.

Galatians 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:7 "Ὡστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος, ἀλλ' υἱός· εἰ δὲ υἱός, καὶ κληρονόμος θεοῦ διὰ χριστοῦ.

“Therefore/so that” indicates that Paul is concluding his argument about sonship. The “you” is singular in the Greek, making the application very personal to each Galatian believer and by extension to every Church Age believer.

“No longer a slave, but a son,” makes the point that the believer is not a slave under the Law, but an adopted adult son with adult privileges under grace. The Galatians and every Christian belong to the dispensation of grace, not the childhood era under the Law with its tutors.

“and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” Not only are Church Age believers heirs of God, we are joint heirs of Jesus Christ. Being heirs of God and joint-heirs of Christ means, among other things, that we are heirs to complete provisions of God as adult sons.

Read the following passages and reflect on the various principles related to being heirs of God and joint-heirs of Christ:

1. Romans 8:16-17. Being sons of God is not only propositional fact of Scripture, there is also a personal experiential knowledge of this reality that is communicated to us personally by Whom? Not only does Scripture say that we are heirs of God, it also says that we are _____ with Christ.
2. Hebrews 1:1, 2. Who is the heir of all things? It was the incarnation that made being joint heirs with Christ a real ontological fact. We actually hold *with* Christ all of God’s assets. Christ came down from where He was that He might lift us up so that we could be with Him forever and share in the riches of God’s grace and character.
3. Titus 3:5-7. We are not saved by works of _____. We become heirs by becoming justified by _____.
4. Eph. 1:3-14 is the longest sentence in the Bible. Note how Paul pours out his appreciation for God’s immeasurable grace and the certainty that the believer will receive the full, undiminished inheritance of Jesus Christ. The inheritance aspect of salvation in this context focuses on the grace of God from beginning to the end: were elected/predestined before the world or time existed; we will receive our completed inheritance in the ages to come, when we will enter into the Father’s eternal heavenly

kingdom. This sentence lays out the ground, guarantee and goal of our inheritance in Christ. This joint inheritance with Christ includes every spiritual blessing in the _____ in Christ, Eph. 1:3b. This would include such things as peace, love, grace, wisdom, eternal life, joy, victory, strength, guidance, power, virtue, forgiveness, righteousness, truth, fellowship with God, spiritual discernment, heaven, eternal riches and glory. We have inherited all of these things because of the work of Jesus Christ in making us heirs of God and joint heirs of Himself.

5. Our inheritance is said to be “_____ and _____, and will not _____ away, reserved in _____ for _____,” 1 Pet. 1:4.
6. Compare Galatians 4:6 with Ephesians 1:14. Note that the Holy Spirit is the down payment (“pledge”) of our eternal inheritance. Of course, when one receives a down payment he receives only part of the same kind of payment that will be paid in full. This means that the life we will enjoy fully in Heaven (full payment) is something that we can enjoy now through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (down payment). What a deal! We can actually experience *now* an aspect of that heavenly life that we will enjoy with God for all of eternity☺

Truth matters!

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don