- MESSAGE OUTLINE -



The Forgotten Future

Ephesians 1:11-14 NKJV

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

INTRODUCTION

When believers get distracted, they can run after fleeting pleasures and end up separated from God and His body the church.

Ephesians 1:3 says God, *has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

Question: Where are you? Are you on the path, or are you lost in the woods, with the wrong crowd?

When we walk in-step with the Spirit and in the promises of God, we enjoy spiritual blessings here and now.

A blessing from heaven is purposed in having an effect in reality here and now. Love is the ultimate blessing!

If we stray from Him or His body, we only get instability and anxiety, adrift after fleeting pleasures.

It's time to 'wake up' and commit ourselves to trust Him and to His body, the church.

THE INHERITANCE

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will (v.11).

Avoid being reductionists in our relationship with the Lord; there is 'so much more to it than that.'

Paul wants us to grasp the totality of what the Lord has done, IS DOING, and will do for each of us.

In Him

vv.4-6: We are chosen, sanctified, and adopted by God, by His grace.

vv.6-7: By His grace, we have been redeemed and forgiven.

vv.8-10: By His grace, we are part of God's revealed and secure plan because Christ is in all and over all.

vv.11-14: We are secure, have an inheritance, sealed with God's Spirit, until Jesus returns for us.

This is the glorious day we wait for, to see our King face to face and receive the inheritance, a place in his eternal kingdom.

It is hard to keep this hope all the time because 'we have to wait.'

Paul throws reminders at us, like one of those short videos, that when you start to watch, it flashes 'wait for it...wait for it...' because Paul the creator doesn't want you to lose focus.

He wants you to know, no matter what you are going through, no matter how challenging times can get...wait for it, it is coming...

Challenges, hardship, setbacks, spiritual attacks, and losses are still part of God's grand plan.

That is what trust IS!

Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

We are predestined for Christlikeness: Romans 8:29a For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

OUR SALVATION

What we have trusted in Jesus Christ for: to believe in the gospel.

The simple message of the gospel:

The Problem: We are all sinful and justly separated from a holy God. We cannot save ourselves through our own efforts.

The Solution: God, in His love, sent His Son, Jesus Christ. He lived the perfect life we couldn't live and died the death we deserved, taking the punishment for our sin upon Himself on the cross.

The Victory: He was buried and rose again on the third day, proving His victory over sin and death and validating all His claims.

The Offer: Salvation is now offered as a free gift to all who place their trust in Jesus Christ.

Now at first here and now, that is all true. *But there is more.*

A SEPARATE PROBLEM

The problem is: We forget. You forget. We stop trusting. We get bored and start playing in the dirt.

If the kids are bored, Church = boring and the dirt outside = fun.

The same *spiritual* boredom happens to adults who see church as a 'service.'

Church is not a service, the church is a group of people who worship the Lord.

Without small groups or ministry involvement, then the dirt becomes a pretty good looking alternative.

Realize, it's not just about what happens in the auditorium! Church is what happens inside this room and outside of this room.

Grace is multifaceted and grace is reflective, and it needs to be bouncing off of you too.

We are sealed with the Holy Spirit collectively, as a body: You all, as a body, are sealed, church!

We're not individual wrapped cookies, we're a cake!

You must see church as a family. Or you are missing out on the past, present, and future of your salvation.

THE PROMISE

The Greek word for promise in v.14 is arrabōn, meaning a down payment, a deposit, and the first installment for guaranteeing our future.

Having believed.. PAST... you are sealed NOW, with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is also the guarantee of our inheritance in the FUTURE.

You can't disconnect the past, from the present, nor from the future because the process is complete the moment it starts.

We tend to focus on justification (the beginning) and glorification (the end), but where we get lost in the forest is on sanctification, in the middle.

Verse 14: *The Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

We are the purchased possession. The purchase is something that has already happened, and you, church, are currently marked as the possession of Jesus Christ for the future redemption.

Acts 20:28: *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

Your past is your future. And what is happening in the middle is also sure to happen. You will be sanctified.

But doesn't the Bible say to *work out your salvation* in **Philippians 2:12**? Yes, but **v.13** it is *God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

Sanctification is God's work.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely... He who calls you faithful, who also will do.*

1 Peter 2:4-5: *Coming to Him as to a living stone... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

CONCLUSION

What does trust mean for us, right here, right now, in the meantime? It means everything.

Peter calls us living stones, chosen by God and precious.

We are not just rocks. Because of Christ's purchase, we are gemstones.

A gemstone in its raw form needs to be polished: chipped, cut up, roughed up, and rubbed before it's true value can be seen.

And that, church, is the sanctification process.

Trials and hardships are God polishing us, grinding and chipping away the impurities, cutting precise facets into us, so that we who are in Him can reflect Him more beautifully.

We are not meant to be isolated gems, hidden away. God is building us into a spiritual house.

This is the church in array, reflecting His glory!

That is us glory reflectors. That is our purpose here and now.

When we worship in service, minister to each other, share the good news, when you gather, and when you edify each other in a small group—you are reflecting the light of Christ onto each other. And their reflection shines back onto you. And then, it shines outside into the world!

Application: What is polishing you today? In Him, you've trusted Him—now keep on trusting Him.

Don't forget the past justification nor your future glorification because it has everything to do with the present victory in Christ.

Trust Him. You will get through it. His promise is that on that day, guaranteed, you will bring Him glory, for all to see today and forever more.

INVITATION

Psalm 37:5-6: *Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.*

If you trust in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and believe in Him for eternal life, in that moment, the old will be gone, and the new will come because you will be made right.

Your sins will be forgiven, your heart will be changed, and it will shine before others.

Trust in Him, so that you will be secure forever.

LET US PRAY

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
June 28-29, 2025

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