

Are You A Qualified Heir?

Joe Slater

“giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (Colossians 1:12)

When the proverbial rich uncle dies, potential heirs get all excited. Uncle’s last will and testament specifies who inherits how much. Only qualified heirs receive a portion.

Before Moses died, God ordained that each tribe of Israel would inherit a certain tract of land in Canaan. When they crossed Jordan, they began driving out the Canaanites and possessing their respective sections. Only Israelites inherited the Promised Land. If you were an Egyptian or a Syrian, you were not included in the allotment.

God has a legacy far greater than real estate awaiting qualified heirs now. Paul told the Colossian Christians that God the Father had qualified them to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints. Note: they did not qualify themselves! Neither they nor we have earned or merited God’s favor. Our inheritance is not physical, but spiritual. It is *“incorruptible and undefiled and . . . does not fade away, reserved in heaven”* (1 Peter 1:4). We qualify as heirs because we are in Christ. As Paul says, *“if (we) are children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ”* (Romans 8:17).

Our inheritance is not in Canaan (Palestine), but *“in the light.”* The very next verse (Colossians 1:13) says God *“has delivered us from the power of darkness.”* So even now we *“walk in the light”* (1 John 1:7). And when we get to Heaven, the Lamb Himself will be the light (Revelation 21:23).

Have you obeyed the gospel? Are you a qualified heir?

Remembering My Uncle’s Silver Dollar

I remember my mother’s older brother, my Uncle Donald. He was a prospector in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. I remember all he could talk about was the gold and uranium mines he had prospected and was mining. He lived to make the almighty dollar! An extremely good-looking man, I remember a picture taken of him on his 50th birthday. In his hand was a silver dollar.

The time would come some twenty-one to twenty-two years later that I would preach his funeral. As I peered down into the casket, I remembered that picture and looked closely; his hands were folded, empty! No silver dollar! But even if that silver dollar had been there, he still would not have taken it with him!

Well did the Scripture say, *“We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”* (1 Timothy 6:7).

I also remember what Jesus said in Luke 12:15 – *“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* Basically, Jesus was saying, “Life is not things.” Then he told the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21). The last question God asked that man was, *“This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?”*

Don’t be trapped in the tyranny of “things”! Let us all be careful not to allow our possessions, or even the desire for possessions, to possess us!

--Jimmie Keas (Oklahoma City, OK) via Old Paths

PUTTING THE PIECES IN PLACE

My mother loved to work puzzles over the long winter days and months. I never really got into them, but I would help her from time to time. I quickly learned the pattern she used for success (you puzzle workers already know this, I’m sure). She would usually start with the edges. But then she would find something unique in the picture (design or color wise), find the pieces to that, assemble them, and then work out from that completed section. I have used this formula in teaching my grandson how to assemble puzzles. With patience and persistence, you can end up with a completed, lovely picture.

I want to apply that concept to a very familiar passage – Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Some well-meaning believers misunderstand this message by Jesus. They think He’s telling us to focus exclusively on Him and not be concerned at all about anything else in our lives. While that interpretation is close to the truth, it’s a bit off the mark. Jesus is telling us to pursue Him primarily. We still have to eat, sleep, raise our kids, pay our mortgages, and keep our cars running, but these things will flow far more easily if we make our relationship with Christ our first priority.

Many people manage their lives as if they are trying to put a jigsaw puzzle together. All the pieces are there, but they are bewildered about where they go. They make attempt after attempt to make things work, but no matter how hard they try, the pieces just don’t fit together. They even try to make two pieces fit that don’t belong together, like my grandson used to do. As a result, they get frustrated and exhausted.

But here is the way to properly complete the puzzle of life. Start with the cross of Christ. Put Jesus in the middle (assembled completely) and then build out from there. If you do this, you will find out that every piece of your life will fit in place. And in the end, you will have completed a beautiful picture that will endure forever.

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)