

Your Inheritance

Imagine that a great tragedy struck and every known member of a royal family was killed. The subjects of the kingdom scoured the records to find someone, anyone, who could be traced to the royal lineage and assume the throne. Imagine they found you, and wanted to give you the kingdom.

That is the premise of the movie *King Ralph*, about a Las Vegas lounge singer who suddenly becomes king of England. He finds himself surrounded by servants, riches and power, being treated, literally, like royalty. He finds, quite simply, that he has inherited the kingdom.

In this week's passage, we will learn about our own inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Paul's message is that we who belong to Jesus will share in Christ's riches, the riches of God. It's not an inheritance that's beyond our imagination.

Monday – Spirit of God, Children of God

"I am so weak that I can hardly write, I cannot read my Bible, I cannot even pray, I can only lie still in God's arms like a little child, and trust." Hudson Taylor, 19th century missionary to China

1. Please read Romans 8:14-17. According to verse 14, what does the Spirit of God do for us?

Text Insight: As in many places in the Bible, the word "sons" should be taken broadly to encompass both men and women, as shown in verses 16 and 17, which refer to "children" in general.

2. In John 8:42-47, what distinction does Jesus draw between those who are God's children and those who are not?
3. Now look at Luke 18:15-17. How should you approach God? What do you think it means to come to God like a child?

Making it Personal: Pray, asking our heavenly Father to use his Spirit to lead you to Jesus in childlike faith.

Tuesday – Abba, Father

"Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever." C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Romans 8:15. The word "sonship" is sometimes translated as "adoption." What are we able to do through the Spirit as adopted children?
2. Read John 14:1-13 for an interesting dialog between Jesus and his disciples about the Father. What did Thomas and Philip ask? Verses 7 and 9 are the heart of Jesus' answers. What do they tell you?
3. In John 10:22-30, Jesus says our place in God's kingdom is permanent. What was the context of this passage? Why is Jesus so sure of this (v. 29)? What ultimate claim does Jesus make in verse 30?

Wednesday – The Holy Spirit's Testimony

"Jesus doesn't need lawyers, he needs witnesses." Anon.

1. Please read Romans 8:16. What does the Spirit do?

Text insight: "Testimony" is evidence that supports a fact. It comes from a root that means "third person standing by," that is, a witness who saw what occurred.

2. Jesus also appealed to a witness in John 8:12-18. Why? In verse 15, Jesus identifies the cause of their failure to accept his testimony. What was it?
3. The passage in John 8 says there are two witnesses, Jesus and the Father. Who are the two witnesses in Romans 8:16? Are you giving testimony to anyone about your place in God's family?

Prayer Focus: Many in this world do not accept the truth about Jesus. Pray for his truth to be told, understood and accepted.

Thursday – Our Inheritance

"Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, I'm a part of the family, the family of God." Bill Gaither, writer of the hymn *Family of God*

1. Please read Romans 8:17. What does it mean to be an heir?
2. According to Hebrews 1:2, what is Jesus' relationship to "all things" and to the universe? God the Son made the universe out of obedience to God the Father, and now is the inheritor of it. What does this tell you as a co-heir with Jesus?
3. In Galatians 3:29 through 4:7, Paul explains further about our status as heirs of God. What parallels do you see between the verses in this passage and Romans 8:14-17?

Making it Personal: Are you an heir of God's kingdom? Express your gratitude in prayer. Are you not yet a member of God's family? Pray for him to accept you now, as you offer yourself to him.

Friday – The Benefit Package

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul?" Jesus, Matthew 16:26

1. Psalm 103 recounts many of the great benefits and blessings we receive from God as members of his family. Which ones have you experienced in your own walk with God?
2. What does the psalmist sing about at the beginning (vv. 1-2) and end (vv. 20-22) of the psalm? How are those two sections similar? How do they differ?
3. Romans 6:23 puts the benefit of belonging to God in a nutshell. Paraphrase this verse in your own words.

Digging Deeper: Read John 8:31-59. Jesus plainly laid out the distinction between belonging to him and rejecting him in verses 34-36. What conclusion did the listeners reach in verses 48 and 52? What did that ultimately lead to in verse 59?

For the Weekend: Read John 10:1-15 and Romans 8:14-17. What does Jesus promise in John 10:10-11? What assurance does this give you in receiving your promised inheritance in Romans 8:17?