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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"



SPIRITUAL FEASTING IN NOVEMBER

Another great time of fellowship has passed! Our Sixth Annual Mission Bible Conference was a time of feasting; and, was truly a blessing to our church and, we trust, to all who attended. Our church is encouraged, uplifted, and challenged by the many messages that were heard. The 18 sermons and the music from our conference have been recorded on cassette tapes. If you would like a copy, send \$15, in care of our church. We're sure they will be a blessing to all who hear them. We are already looking forward to next year. Make plans to be with us on November 7, 8, 9.

--Al Gormley

THE INHERITANCE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

BY: C. D. COLE

Inheritance is that which belongs to an heir. When property changes hands, the deed is made to the man and his heirs. Much of this world's goods is not owned by men who themselves acquired it by their own toil and labor but they acquired it through the law that what a man owns shall be left to his heirs when he is dead.

Peter would comfort sorrowing and discouraged people of Christ by discussing their future blessings as the heirs of God. They did not have much, if any, of this world's goods, but they were heirs of God, heir apparent to future goods.

In this message we will ponder: 1. the title of this inheritance, 2. the assurance of the inheritance, 3. the cause of the inheritance, and 4. the inheritance described.

I. The title to this inheritance is by birth, by being born again.

By a natural birth, many things are inherited. Some children inherit thrones of kings. They do not reach the throne of the kingdom by virtue of their wisdom or fitness for the place, but because they are firstborn sons of kings. Some inherit great wealth. We often hear talk of million dollar babies, that is babies who belong to millionaires. Some children inherit an ugly disposition from their parents--some inherit a taste for drink--some inherit terrible diseases. In one sense, children differ in their inheritance; in another sense, all born of the flesh are heirs of eternal flames, for by nature we are all the children of wrath. But in the second birth, the supernatural birth of the Spirit, we become the children of God. If children their heirs, heirs of God. This is our title to mansions in the skies and to the inheritance here described by Peter. The first birth will not entitle us to any future blessings. We must be born again if we are to become heirs of God.

II. The assurance of the inheritance is called a lively or living hope.

A. This means that the inheritance is not yet possessed, but only hoped for. Children of the rich and of kings are heirs apparent to riches or to a throne, but in their childhood they do not have possession of their riches nor do they sit up on the throne, but do look forward to the time when the inheritance will be theirs by actual possession.

B. The hope of the believer in Christ is called a living hope. He will never be disappointed in it, but will certainly receive what he hopes for. The child of a rich man may hope to receive the wealth before he gets it. Children of kings have been disappointed in their hope to reign over great empires because their fathers had to abdicate the throne for themselves and their heirs. When King Edward gave up the throne of England for the love and companionship of a woman, he gave it up for himself and for his heirs.

C. But the hope of the Christian is a living hope. It lives when he comes to die, for his flesh shall rest in hope. Solomon says of the wicked, "When a wicked dieth, his expectation shall perish; and the hope of unjust men perisheth," Proverbs 11:7; "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death," Proverbs 14:32. Death cuts to pieces all other hopes, and turns men out of all other inheritances, only serves to fulfill the hope of the child of God. Death is only a messenger sent to bring the children of God home to the possession of their inheritance.

D. This living hope is based upon the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Christ is alive and he says because I live ye shall live also.

III. The cause of this inheritance is the mercy of God. According to his abundant mercy were we begotten to this inheritance. St. Bernard says: "Great sins and great miseries need great mercies, and many sins and many miseries need many mercies." And is not this great mercy, to make of Satan's slave, sons of

the most High. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God. We did nothing to become a child of God. We did no more to accomplish our second birth than our first birth. What manner of mercy is this to take firebrands of hell and appoint them to shine as stars in the firmament, to raise up the poor out of the dunghill and set them with princes. (Psalm 113:7, 8.)

Love and faith and hope are all the result of the new birth and not the causes of it. He that loveth has been born of God. He that believeth has been born of God. And here it is said that we are begotten or born again unto hope.

IV. The inheritance described. It is described by its qualities and as to the certainty of receiving it.

A. The qualities of this inheritance are set forth in three words: In-corrutable--undefiled--fadeless.

HE IS THERE

*He is there, when problems
surround your life...
He is there, when your troubles
bring worry and strife...
He is there, in the darkest
hour of need...
He is there, when all seems lost,
if only you'll heed...
He is there, just listen for
His word, feel His touch...
He is there, just because He
loves you so much...
He is there to calm all the
fear and the care...
He is there, and you can know
that He'll always be there...
He is there, in your heart
to comfort and uplift...
He is there, now and always,
your greatest gift.*

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6.

A few years ago I was a guest in a Christian home in a Western City. I sat one day at my desk with an open window before me. A beautiful child of perhaps eight years old was disporting herself upon the lawn, and made a lovely picture in the garden of roses. Shortly my attention was attracted by the voice of another Child who had come up to the gate and called to my little friend in the garden. "Annie," she said, "we are going to have a picnic on Saturday, and a lot of us will be there, and we want you to come along. Will you?" "I will ask my mother," replied the other, and immediately ran around the house to make inquiry. In a little while she returned and reported: "Mother says she will think about it." "Oh," exclaimed the other in an annoyed voice, "don't leave it like that. Go and tease her until she says yes." "It isn't necessary to tease my mother," said little Annie; "if she thinks it is best for me I know she will let me go, and if she doesn't let me go, she probably has something nicer in her mind anyway." Darling, trustful child, I thought in my heart, what a lesson you may teach to many of your elders in regard to trusting implicitly the loving heart of our Father above!

"'Fear not! I will help thee.' Fear not! If there were an ant at the door of thy granary, asking for help, it would not ruin thee to give him a grain of thy wheat; and thou art nothing but a tiny insect at the door of My all-sufficiency. I will help thee." —Spurgeon