

Christ's Inheritance In Us

Ephesians 1:15-19

Charles Price

Consider

Having considered the Christian's inheritance in Christ in Ephesians 1:1-14, the apostle Paul goes on to speak of Christ's inheritance in us. What does it mean that Christ has an inheritance in his people? How does this change how we view ourselves? What new purpose does this infuse into our lives? Let's get into our study to find out.

Let's Examine

Read Ephesians 1:15-19

- After reading the text together, take some time to observe the text. What words are repeated? What are key words, actions or phrases that stand out to you? What do you wonder about? *Take some time to observe individually, jot down notes and share your observations (or questions) together.*
- Paul is eager for his readers to know a few things. What does he want them to know?
- One thing he wants them to know is "the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people." (NIV) Consider these verses from the Bible:
 - o Exodus 19:4-5
 - o Deuteronomy 7:6-8
 - o Psalm 78:70-72*Ask different members of your group to look up and read the passages out loud, then discuss how they add to our understanding of what it means for God to have an inheritance in his people.*
- Why does God habitually reference Israel's rescue from slavery in Egypt?
- What statements are made about the nature, identity, and actions of God?
- What statements are made about the nature, identity, and actions of God's people?

Let's Apply

Read Exodus 9:16 and 1 Peter 2:9-10

On Sunday, Charles Price observed that Christ's inheritance in us means two things for us: possession and purpose. We belong to Christ and Christ, as our Lord, gives our lives a new purpose...

- When you think about being God's "possession", what do you feel? Do you think modern people in our city are open to the idea of being "possessed by God"? Why or why not?
- The word "possess" can have different connotations. For a lot of people, it can sound exploitative, possessive or dominating. Having considered Ephesians 1:15-19 and some Old Testament background, why do you think being God's *special possession* is good news? How does God act towards his treasured possession? Does he dominate? Or does he love? What did Jesus Christ do to make us his possession?
- Are there any ways you resist letting yourself belong fully to God?
- Part of being Christ's inheritance is to receive a new purpose. When we belonged only to ourselves, we set our purpose. Now that Christ is our Lord, he sets our purpose. What is our new purpose as Christ's treasured possession?
- What are some ways we can participate in that purpose in our daily life?
- When you think about our city and world and your neighbours, friends or colleagues - do you think people have a longing to belong or a longing to be justified? What good news can you bring to those in your spheres of influence who long for this? Think of one person you can pray for and place yourself at Christ's disposal to bring his love and truth to them this week.

Let's Pray

- Pause and quietly consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.
- Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-19 for one another. Ask that "the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people and his incomparably great power for us who believe."
- Repent of any ways you habitually deny Christ his inheritance by asserting your own lordship over your life.
- Ask Jesus to empower you with the Holy Spirit to be fully at his disposal this week.
- Pray for the global church; that TPC and the whole body of Christ would be fully given over to God's holy love, to be his treasured possession and to live for the spread of his power and name in all the earth.

Holy Spirit, empower us with the love of the Father to join Jesus in his mission. Grow us as your body for your global mission. Through Christ we pray. Amen.