

The Inheritance of Faithful Children of God

Peter describes the inheritance that is promised to those who are “begotten” of God. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3,4). An inheritance is “the reception of possessions, condition or trait from parent to offspring” (Webster’s 594). An inheritance is something, which belongs to the rightful heir. As the children of God, we have a promised inheritance. One that is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Let’s look at these characteristics of our inheritance.

First, our inheritance is incorruptible. When we speak of “incorruptible” it means, “immortal, imperishable, undying, and enduring” (Vines Vol. 1, 244). It will be like nothing we have ever seen or know. In the world we know, everything perishes, but this is not so of our heavenly inheritance. Christ spoke of our incorruptible inheritance when He said, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). Time, abuse, and neglect have a way of tarnishing everything we now have, but not with our inheritance.

Secondly, we see that our inheritance is undefiled. Guy N. Woods states in his commentary that undefiled means, “unstained, unsoiled, therefore, pure and chaste” (26). What a fitting inheritance for those who have been made pure by the blood of Christ (cf. 1 Peter 1:3,4). Man has a tendency to soil or stain the possessions that he has. That is why the “stain guard” was invited! Our heavenly inheritance is pure and will remain that way. That is why John said, “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

In the last place, our inheritance fadeth not away. Peter tells us that our inheritance is unfading. It is a “symbol of perpetuity” (Vines Vol. 2, 68). Can you imagine a flower that never loses its beauty? Our flowers bloom and then the glory or the beauty soon passes away. This is not the case of our inheritance. It will be as beautiful 10 million years from now. John said, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4). What an inheritance! No more tears, sorrow, or pain. How could that ever fade? Maybe it will not fade because it will have the “glory of God” (Revelation 21:11).

Whose child are you? What will be your inheritance? Heaven is a prepared place for the children of God (cf. John 14:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3,4). Hell is also a prepared place for a prepared people who have chosen their father the devil (cf. Matthew 25:41; John 8:44). We are making plans for our inheritance. The life that we live and the choices that we make are eternal. What will it be? I’m thankful that my heavenly Father wants His children to have such an inheritance!

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