

In today's passage, Paul confesses that we have become an "inheritance" in Jesus Christ. He emphasizes that this is a spiritual blessing worthy of praise. The term "inheritance" can be translated in two ways: we have become an "inheritance" before God or we have "received an inheritance." In both cases, it signifies something precious that must be inherited, like the Promised Land for the Israelites or children for parents.

So, what is the blessing we have received in Christ, and why should we praise it?

First, let's praise that we belong to God

In today's passage, Paul speaks of us becoming an inheritance (Greek: "ekklerothemen"). This means that, as saved individuals, we have become the possession of God. In verse 11, it mentions that we have become the possession of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will (Malachi 3:17, 1 Peter 2:9). Moreover, God has stamped us with His ownership (verse 13). This stamping is a mark confirming someone's property for protection.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is received when we hear and believe the gospel, securing us as God's possession and protecting us from harm (Isaiah 43:1-2). We must believe that we are God's possession, highly valued, and saved through the blood of His Son.

Second, let's praise that we have received the guarantee of heavenly treasures

Interpreting the "received inheritance" as receiving God's possession means we have become heirs. As God's children, we inherit what is God's, sharing in all spiritual blessings. The guarantee of the inheritance, the guarantee of heaven, is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit becomes the complete guarantee of future glory, joy, and blessings (Romans 8:32, 2 Corinthians 5:5). True blessings are not just of this earth; the most precious blessings are eternal ones in heaven. God, who initiated our salvation, will complete it through the Holy Spirit within us.

Third, let's praise that we have become a channel of blessings

Examining Ephesians 1:3-14, we see a shift in pronouns from "us" to "you." In verses 3-12, "us" refers to Jewish Christians, and in verses 13-14, "you" refers to Gentile Christians. Paul declares that the blessings of God are not only for Jewish believers but also for Gentile believers.

Christians have been chosen to be the channel through which God's salvation plan and great blessings flow to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3). We are not only recipients of God's blessings but also called to share them. God desires the gospel and the love of Christ to be transmitted through us.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

**Bible
Reading**

1/1(Mon)	1/2(Tue)	1/3(Wed)	1/4(Thur)	1/5(Fri)	1/6(Sat)	1/7(Sun)
New Year's Scripture Reading will begin on 1/8(Mon).						

QT

Quiet Time Passage

1/1(Mon)	1/2(Tue)	1/3(Wed)	1/4(Thur)	1/5(Fri)	1/6(Sat)	1/7(Sun)
Mark 1:1-15	Mark 1:16-34	Mark 1:35-45	Mark 2:1-12	Mark 2:13-22	Mark 2:23-3:6	Mark 3:7-19

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share something new you have learned or received grace from in today's message.
2. Discuss the evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence within you.
3. Explain the significance of the Holy Spirit's sealing and the guarantee of inheritance within you.
4. Share specific ways you can share the blessings of believing in Jesus with others.