

Heritage series - #2 – Why We Must Choose Our Ancestors Carefully -

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, **that no man take thy crown.**

Thesis: (If we would receive our full inheritance we must choose our ancestors very carefully.)

Intro. A. Our inheritance is in two parts –

1) Our full and final inheritance in Heaven - Revelation 21:7 (KJV) **He that overcometh shall inherit all things;** and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

2) Present day “samples” of our inheritance are provided through the Holy Spirit who is the earnest of our inheritance.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; Who hath also sealed us, and given **the earnest of the Spirit** in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us **the earnest of the Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with **that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

(For ALL that the Holy Spirit does see Appendix #1 at the end of these notes)

C. Our text teaches two truths:

1) *That we can lose rewards in Heaven – “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Crowns we could have received at the Judgment Seat of Christ, but will not. See Appendix #2 on the Five Crowns promised to believers (This does not mean that we can lose our salvation, but that we may miss out on some of our inheritance.)*

2) *Rewards we lose are “taken” from us by others -*

I. How Do We Miss Out On Our “Crowns”?

A. Note the concerns of the Apostle Paul -

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but **one receiveth the prize?** So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: **lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

B. Note the resistance of our old nature to God's work in us -

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Romans 7:18-19 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

C. Note the influence of the wicked on the believer -

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

II. Who Are These People Who Rob Us Of Our Crowns and How Do They Do It?

A. According to the Scriptures they are usually religious people – The Jewish leaders commanded the apostles not to preach Christ. Also, the Ephesian idol worshippers in Acts 19. Surprisingly, false teachers arose in the churches as in Acts, chapter 15, and in the churches of Galatia.

2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders against teaching error in their own church.

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. (See Appendix #5)

B. How Do They Rob Us Of Our Crowns?

*** Not usually by persecution, execution, or banishment, but by seducing us into error, or into moral failure (See Rev. 2:20 – 22) See also 2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

*** By discouraging, depressing, and distracting us so that we lose the joy of our salvation and no longer tell others of our wonderful Saviour.** (How long has it been since you lovingly, joyfully shared the gospel with someone?) There are many religious groups that strive to prevent us from inheriting all that God would do in and through us. They hinder the workings of the Spirit of God by falsely accusing, persecuting, imprisoning, and executing, the saints of God.

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. – Do you hear their whispers, murmurings, complaints, accusations, shouts of rage? “Arrest them, threaten them, banish them, cast them into prison, burn them at the stake! Behead them, drown them!”

*** By persuading us to reject our spiritual forefathers and embrace those who teach error. Rather than obeying 2 Timothy 2:2** “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall

be able to teach others also," we are persuaded to reject the apostles' doctrine.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, **ye might well bear with him.**

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

III. Conclusion – MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY!

There is an unbreakable link between faith and morals – Between what I believe and How I live.

***How Can We Tell Who To Avoid, Who To Reject As a Spiritual Ancestor? Cain was a prime example of who to reject-**

A. Jude tells us that he was an apostate, one who knew the truth and rejected it.

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for **they have gone in the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

B. John tells us that Cain not only believed lies about God, but he hated his brother and slew him.

1 John 3:12-16 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. **We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

Appendix #1 – The Work of the Holy Spirit -

1. He inspired holy men to write the Scriptures -

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2. He convicts lost men of their need of salvation -

John 16:7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

3. He testifies to lost men that Jesus is the Saviour of sinners -

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

4. He does the work of regeneration in us that makes us born again -

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

5. He is a Person who can be received -

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

6. He confirms to us that we are saved when we have believed on Christ -

Romans 8:16 (KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

1 John 5:10-11 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

7. He baptises us into the body of Christ at conversion -

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

8. He indwells every believer -

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

9. He fills the obedient believer again and again -

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

10. He grows in every believer the fruit of the Spirit -

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

11. He leads every child of God -

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

12. He distributes to every believer the spiritual gift He sees fit to give us -

1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to

every man severally as he will.

13. He guides us in what we reply to our critics -

Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead *you*, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

14. He teaches us, brings things to our remembrance, guides us into Truth, and reveals the future to us -

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

15. He moves us in ways that lost men do not understand -

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

16. He teaches us how to worship God correctly -

John 4:24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

17. He imparts power to the believer to testify of Christ to lost men everywhere -

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

18. He does a work of sanctification in us -

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Romans 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

19. He helps us to speak the truth about Christ -

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

20. He helps us to pray -

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.

Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21. He speaks to the churches -

Revelation 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

22. He will participate in the resurrection of the dead -

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

23. He works with the churches to invite the lost to be saved

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

24. He ministers comfort to the churches -

Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

25. He actively sends forth labourers into the harvest field -

Acts 13:4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

26. He sets men in positions of spiritual leadership in the churches -

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

27. He works with our consciences as He teaches and guides us -

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

28. He helps us to wisely perceive, and the distinguish between temporal and spiritual things -

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

29. He has fellowship with us -

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. The second *epistle* to the Corinthians was written from Philippi, *a city* of Macedonia, by Titus and Lucas.

30. He brings joy to the believer -

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

31. He helps us to hold fast to the truths of Scripture -

2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

32. In All these He is the Earnest of our inheritance in Heaven -

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; Who hath also sealed us, and given **the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us **the earnest of the Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with **that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Appendix #2 – Five Crowns Promised to Believers -

- 1) **The Imperishable Crown** – (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)
- 2) **The Crown of Rejoicing** – (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
- 3) **The Crown of Righteousness** – (2 Timothy 4:8)
- 4) **The Crown of Glory** – (1 Peter 5:4)
- 5) **The Crown of Life** -- (James 2:12)

Appendix #3 – The Five Marks of a Cult -

1. An extra-scriptural (outside the Bible) source of authority, (i.e. usually the writings of their founder(s))
2. The denial of justification by grace alone, adding works to faith.
3. Devaluing the person and work of Christ, usually by a slight shift of emphasis (To God the Father, or to the Holy Spirit.)
4. Seeing itself to be the exclusive community to be saved.
5. Seeing themselves to have the central role in eschatology (i.e. God's plan for the future is focused on them alone.

Appendix # 4 – Baptist Distinctives -

These are beliefs and practices common to Baptist churches/ What we believe that has been passed down to us by our spiritual forefathers to Baptist churches – Why do we “do church” the way we do? Because God has given us in His Word the following guidelines for churches.

1. **Biblical authority** – The Bible is the final authority, not tradition, or the writings of men.
2. **Autonomy of the local church** – Every local church governs its own affairs under the Headship of Christ.
3. **Priesthood of the believer** – Every believer is equal before God and has no need of an earthly priest since the Lord Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest.
4. **Two ordinances** - The local church has no sacraments, but observes believers' baptism and the Lord's supper as ordinances.
5. **Independent soul liberty** – We hold that every believer is to obey God for himself, and that he is ultimately accountable to God alone.
6. **Saved church membership** – We hold that the local church is made up of those whose sins are forgiven through faith in Christ.
7. **Two offices** – We hold that there are only two offices in the church, pastors (who are also called elders and bishops) and deacons
8. **Separation of church and state** – We hold that the church and the state are never to be joined together, and that the church is subject to Christ, not to the state. Neither does the church rule over the state.

Appendix # 5 – The Errors That Jesus Reproved in the Churches in Asia – Rev. 2 & 3

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| 1. False apostles – 2:2 | 4. A false prophetess, Jezebel – 2:20 |
| 2. The teachings of Balaam – Rev. 2:14 | 5. The Depths of Satan – Rev. 2:24 |
| 3. The Nicolaitans – Rev. 2:6, 15 | 6. False Jews – Rev. 3:9 |



