

Heirs to the Throne  
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In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God and the Word became man. Through Him all things were made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

And God created man and put him in the Garden of Eden, and God created a helper for man and this He called Woman; and God desired a relationship with them but because of disobedience this relationship was severed. God's desire for us is to enter into a relationship with Him but, because of our disobedience, this relationship will be severed.

Throughout biblical history we see over and over again the cycle of God's covenanting with His people, the people obeying for a while, then in their foolish pride they will try to do things their way rather than God's way, which brings hardship and danger into their lives. Then God, in His unconditional love, will raise up someone to bring them to repentance and restore their relationship with God.

Thus the cycle was repeated over and over until God, in His wisdom, made a new covenant, a covenant that has been carried down to us today. A covenant that will forgive our wickedness and remember our sins no more.

Sometimes we don't let people completely know us because we are afraid that there may be something about us that they won't like. God already knows everything about us, yet He still accepts us and loves us. God is with us through every situation, protecting, loving and guiding us and He loves us completely. God is present everywhere. Because this is so we can never be lost to God.

This is good news because no matter what we do or where we go we can never be far from God's presence. God's time to visit us with His comforts are when we are most destitute of other comfort. It is in this context that the Word became man, became the unblemished lamb that was sacrificed for us. It is through the crucifixion and resurrection that our sins are redeemed and our hope is kindled and faith is built in us. A faith that Jesus Christ will set us free from the law of sin and death, a faith that lets us believe that God so loved the world that He sacrificed His only son that whosoever believeth in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life. This from a God who would not let Abraham, through faith, sacrifice his only son but did not hesitate to sacrifice His only son.

The spirit of life is the Holy Spirit. He was present at the creation of the world and He is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian. It is through the Holy Spirit that there is constant communication between heaven and earth, there is no condemnation to those who in faith are in Jesus Christ, that even though sin is still remaining in the world, there is no ruining power in it.

There is affliction but no condemnation; we have become a new creation in Jesus, that the old has passed away and the new is born. A new life in faith, and by faith we are assured of life with Christ forever. Therefore, if we live in Christ we have an obligation to put to death the misdeeds of the body, to regard as dead the power of sin, and when we do this we have the power to ignore temptation when it comes.

Jesus Christ is our refuge. The law could not free us from the power of sin. It has no power of pardon or grace. It is through Jesus Christ that the covenant of grace is made with us. It is through Christ that we are freed from sin and death.

"Not guilty, let him go free." What would those words mean to you if you were on death row? The fact is, the entire human race is on death row, justly condemned for repeatedly breaking God's holy law for we are all sinners and fall far short of the Glory of God, but thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ, He has declared us not guilty and has offered freedom from sin and given us the power to do his will.

Paul says we who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, that we did not receive a spirit that makes us slaves to fear but we received a spirit of sonship. Now, if we are children of God, then we are heirs with God and co-heirs with Christ. If we share in the sufferings we also share in His glory. Even though we may suffer now, it is of no comparison to the glory that will be revealed in us. Creation waits in eager expectation, in hope that soon we will be freed from the bondage of sin.

We will no longer be cringing in fear, because we are God's children, and as such God has already us His best gifts: His son, forgiveness and eternal life. There is a price to be paid for living in Christ. There has been suffering since the beginning, but even in places where we know Christianity is tolerated we must not become complacent. We must always be vigilant to resist the pressures to conform to the world. Nothing we suffer can compare, however, with this inheritance we will receive.

Paul presents the idea that salvation is past, present and future. It is past because we are saved the moment we proclaim our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Our new life begins at that very moment. It is present because we are being saved, being made right. But at the same time we have not fully received all the benefits and blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ's new kingdom is fully established. That is our future salvation.

While we can be confident of our salvation, we still look ahead with hope and trust toward what lies beyond this life when we will be like Christ. Jesus Christ says I am the way and the life. Jesus Christ is our Jacob's ladder. We have no way of getting to heaven but by this ladder. May we look forward to becoming heirs to the throne, the throne that will rule over a new heaven and a new earth. The promise of God's dwelling with mankind when he will wipe the tears from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain .

Come Lord Jesus. Amen.