

The children of God have a sonship inheritance given to them with the new birth by the grace of God.

Romans 8:15-17

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

We have already received part of our inheritance in that we are justified, righteous, sanctified, and redeemed. In the Book of Ephesians, chapters 1-3, we are given a description of the many blessings we inherited with the new birth. For example:

- Blessed us with all spiritual blessings, 1:3
- Chosen before the foundation of the world, 1:4
- Made holy and without blame before him in love, 1:4
- Adoption of children by Jesus Christ, 1:5
- Made accepted in the beloved, 1:6
- Redemption, the forgiveness of sins, 1:7
- Wisdom and prudence, 1:8
- Promise of being gathered together, 1:10

The inheritance that is ours is by God's loving, merciful grace and is a gift to His children.

Ephesians 1:11

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

None of this which is received with the new birth is by man's works, but by God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We should clearly understand that although our sonship inheritance was given to us freely, God fully expects us to use these rights to live a holy life today. His grace to us should never be used as a license to sin. We are not saved by works, but we are saved unto good works for which we will be rewarded. In addition to our sonship inheritance, we have an inheritance that is given because of our good works. Those who do not walk God's Word will not receive this inheritance.

Ephesians 5:3-5

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

When Christ returns, the kingdom of Heaven will reign on earth during which time the earned inheritance will be rewarded.

I Corinthians 3:13-15

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Two distinct inheritances are indicated:

1. The sonship inheritance for all born-again ones received by God's grace.
2. The earned inheritance for those faithful carrying out good works after having been born again.

I Peter tells us our sonship inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled, fadeth not away, is reserved and guarded in heaven for us by the Son of God. The inheritance we receive by our good works is yet being determined as we live according to God's will.