



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 11, 2021

An Inheritance for Believers

By Daniel H. Wilcox

Ephesians 1:3-14

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

1:4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

1:5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,

1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

1:8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight

1:9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

1:11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,

1:12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

1:13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;

1:14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

In Portugal, Luis Carlos de Nuranha Cabral da Camara left an unusual inheritance, a will that bequeathed to seventy randomly chosen names from the telephone directory. Thirteen years later, these seventy persons equally shared the Camara's estate proceeds. However, the inheritance of Christ comes to believers by faith in Christ and a relationship with God.

Apostle Paul in Ephesians foresees the ultimate unity of humanity in which believers in Christ receive an incredible inheritance from God, resulting in permanent residence in paradise. Through the blood of Christ at Calvary, all humanity gains access to the title of this inheritance, justifying the entire created order from destruction. With faith in Christ, professing believers gain acquisition to the title through confessing repentance and hope of salvation by hearing and heeding the Word of Truth. The benefits of this spiritual inheritance, redemption and salvation, are guaranteed by the presence of Holy Ghost. This abiding anointing symbolizes divine providence through genuine expression of love for God and neighbors, signifying the communal unity of the Kingdom. This unity fulfills the will of God to reconcile all and confirms willing believers in authentic community actualizing title of inheritance through possession in the Kingdom. Therefore, the hope in Christ is realized in residence of God's Eternal Glory.

Let us now live worthy of a spiritual inheritance that intentionally redeems, saves, and perfects us for the glory of God and the Kingdom.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)— Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have trusted the inheritance in Christ as a guiding principle? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY: O God, whom all good proceeds, grant that by your inspiration, we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Adaption from [The Book of Common Prayer](#)

Pray for the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial, July 11-12, 2021.

ACT:

1. During the Kingdomtide season, host a group discussion about the benefits of spiritual inheritance. Journal your experience and reflect on your spiritual journey. Do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amehealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
AMEC Hymnal, #440

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
And to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, Thus says the Lord!

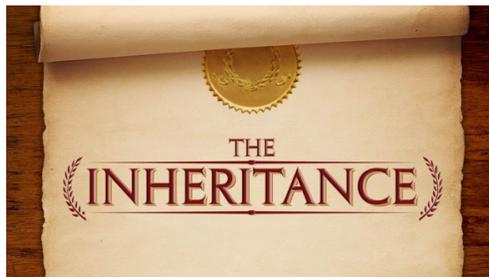
Refrain

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.
4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.