

Ephesians: Portraits of Authentic Faith

The Vocabulary of Salvation: *Inheritance* – Ephesians 1:11-19

Message Discussion Guide

Scripture & Message Review

Read Ephesians 1:13, 2 Thessalonians 2:10, John 3:16, Romans 10:9.

- Read these verses closely, and then from these verses, list what a person must do to accept God's offer of forgiveness and redemption that leads to salvation?
- The word for the verb "believe" in Ephesians 1:13 and John 3:16 is the Greek word for "faith" turned into a verb. Since English doesn't have a verb form for "faith," the translator's used "believe." So, how would you explain what is involved in the idea of "believe" in these two verses? How is that different from simple belief?

Read Ephesians 1:18-19, 1 Peter 1:3-4.

- Why do you think the Lord calls his gifts to us our "inheritance?"
- In what ways is this "inheritance" similar to an inheritance someone might receive after the death of a family member?
- In what ways is the "inheritance" God gives different from what we might receive after the death of a family member?
- What are some words you would use to describe the inheritance described in these two passages?

Read Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22.

- How did God "seal" us?
- In what ways does the "seal" guarantee the security of our salvation?

Read Romans 8:35-39, John 10:28-29.

- What do these verses say about the security of our salvation?

Read Ephesians 1:14, Philippians 1:6, 1 John 3:2.

- Here we see one promise expressed three ways. What is the promise God is making?
- How does this promise encourage believers today?

Read 1 John 2:19, John 8:31, Colossians 1:21-23.

- Explain what 1 John 2:19 says about someone who seems to have been following God for a couple years but then abandons the faith?
- How does this verse mesh with the saying: "Faith that fizzles before the finish was faulty from the first."
- How do these other two passages (John 8:31 & Colossians 1:21-23) support 1 John 2:19?

Big Question

- The Bible teaches that in one sense we have been saved; in another sense we are being saved; and in a third sense, we will one day be ultimately saved. What encouragement does Ephesians 1:13-19 give for today while we are being saved? What encouragement do we find in this passage for our ultimate salvation?

Bonus Question

- Read 1 John 2:19 and Hebrews 6:4-6. How do these passages complement one another?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

2 Thessalonians 2:10 || and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved.

John 3:16 || For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9 || If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Peter 1:3-4 || 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Ephesians 4:30 || And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:22 || He has also put his seal on us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.

Romans 8:35-39 || 35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:28-29 || 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Philippians 1:6 || I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:2 || Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is.

1 John 2:19 || They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.

John 8:31 || Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples.

Colossians 1:21-23 || 21 Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. 22 But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—23 if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

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Hebrews 6:4-6 || 4 For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age, 6 and who have fallen away. This is because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding him up to contempt.