

We Own Everything (thanks to Him!)

(preached 3/31/24—Resurrection Sunday)

I have some of the best news ever: ***Jesus is alive!*** Death didn't beat Him! He was dead for 3 days, then was raised up in a new body and walked out of the tomb! He appeared to over 500 people in the next 40 days, then ascended to Heaven from the Mt. of Olives in front of witnesses who saw everything with the naked eye! At some point in the near future (I believe), He's coming back in the same way He left!

Until that wonderful day arrives, **we endure here in this fallen world**...and that's no easy thing. We're still surrounded by death, hardship, sorrow, loss, separation, and pain. Some of us live with one or more of those things every day and there's nothing wrong with longing for the return of our Lord and Savior Who will end all those things and wipe away every tear!

What can we do while we wait? What will help us to endure until the end?

I have another piece of good news that will boost our faith and hope:

WE ALREADY OWN EVERYTHING

[Rom 8:17 KJV] 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.

The word “heir” used here denotes being a son or daughter whose parents have left everything to them.

JOINT HEIR means we inherit everything with someone else, but more specifically as an adopted child sharing the inheritance with the blood-child.

TRUE STORY MICHAEL. When I was a kid, my dad sold a piece of property located in the boondocks to a family of 3 who moved here from Arizona. The parcel had no electric, running water, or flush toilets! It was a bare piece of land out in the woods. The family was dirt poor and had brought nothing with them except their truck and the clothes on their backs.

They bought a small used ***single wide trailer*** that was at least 20 years old and had it hauled in. Within a month they had power, but it took several months beyond that for them to get a well and septic. They had a son a little younger than me named Michael, and we became good friends.

One day while visiting, I told Mike that ***I felt badly for him having to live this way*** and was secretly thankful it wasn't me. He informed me that it was actually his stepdad married to his mom, and that his bio dad lived back in AZ. Then he dropped a bombshell on my lap: he claimed his grandparents were multi-millionaires and that, when he became 21, he and his dad would inherit millions.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM. Kids tell stories: monster under the bed and bigfoot in the woods kinds of things, and I responded to Michael with doubt. I'll never forget his response: *"I didn't want to come to NY"* he said. *"I wanted to stay in AZ with my dad and grandparents, but my mom insisted I come here and live a hard life first."* When I asked why, he continued: *"they want me to appreciate my inheritance when it comes. They're afraid that if I stayed in AZ I would be entitled and spoiled, but if I come here and have it tough, I'll be more appreciative."* I still thought he was pulling my leg, so later on I asked my dad who confirmed the story. I confess to remaining skeptical because it all sounded too good to be true.

Years passed, Michael graduated from high school and moved back to AZ. We lost contact as I had my own life to lead. MANY years later when I was in my 40's I was talking with one of Mike's family members and I asked him: ***"did Michael ever inherit the millions he was supposed to?"*** I thought for sure the answer would be no, or that it was tied up in court, things fell through, wasn't what he thought it was going to be, etc. His family member confirmed that yes: upon his 21st birthday Mike inherited everything he said he was. I was stunned!

Please consider the true story I just told you. **While he was a kid he lived hard.** Even after they had power, water, and flush toilets things weren't easy for him. He attended school then cut wood with his dad on nights, weekends, and vacation. His parents were strict: his stepdad would make him cut his own switch like a tree branch to be whacked in the rear end with! He worked in the woods all the time, including the winter. He lived on pasta, rice, and beans for years because it was all his family could afford. Old clothes, used cars, and a small humble living space.

Since I was good friends with him, I can tell you **he thought (at that time) it would go on forever.** That he would never leave that lifestyle, never have any more than he did, never live better, never be happy, or feel like he had enough.

Yet the entire time he already owned everything...but as a kid, it wasn't time for him to take possession.

He already owned everything he said he was going to which included a business and land in AZ. He owned the land underneath the business, which included some fancy place to live. After hearing it described, I could only call it a mansion.

All of that was his, in his name, and—listen now—was guaranteed. No one could contest it or tie it up in court.

AND it didn't depend on how he behaved while a kid.

He could have been a Boy Scout who helped old people across the street or a thug who stole and assaulted people. Either way when he became 21, *the irrevocable will would kick in and he would get everything.*

Why did he get everything? For the reasons we quoted in Romans 8: **just because he was a son.** That's it.

[Gal 3:23-26 ESV] 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Mike's parents were his guardians until he came of age. When he finally did, he became his own man, was no longer under his parents, and received his full inheritance.

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD the Father and therefore inherited everything...and I mean everything.

- He sits on a throne of rulership in Heaven.
- He owns everything in the spiritual world and the physical, including planet earth and ALL the territory on it.
- He has supreme authority over all things and all people, bar none.

He was the sole Heir. The “Blood-Son” of Father God.

Then **He chose to come here** as One of us, in a normal human body.

- He fulfilled all His Father's commandments and proved Himself to be righteous and holy.
- He chose the nails and the Cross instead of an earthly throne and here's why:
- *to give every human being on the planet to become an adopted son or daughter of God the Father.*

First we needed to be forgiven, so He shed His blood on the Cross and died there—the sacrificial Lamb of God who paid the debt of OUR sins.

Once that debt was clear, **He rose from the dead 3 days later** then ascended to Heaven.

When He did that He didn't abandon us **but gave us another part of Himself:** God the Holy Spirit.

Despite claims otherwise, **our legal system is based on the Bible** and uses the same terminology. A will is drawn up by a lawyer and sealed by the legal system as being legit. The lawyer plays the role of Guarantor who enacts the will at the appointed time.

In Michael's case, he needed to be 21. Upon his 21st birthday, **HIS GRANDPARENT'S LAWYER ACTIVATED THE WILL AND THE COURTS ENFORCED IT.**

10 days after His Ascension to Heaven, ***Jesus sent the Holy Spirit*** to live within everyone who receives Him as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit is our lawyer and when we come to full maturity, He will enact the Will of our Father: God!

[2Co 1:20-22 ESV] 20 For all the promises of God [our inheritance as sons & daughters] find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 21 And it is God who establishes us [as sons & daughters] with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his [legal, official] seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee [that we'll receive our inheritance].

- If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your divine Lawyer lives inside you!
- He is the Guarantor that you will be a joint-heir with Jesus for the entire Kingdom of God!
- Said Kingdom includes your own resurrection from the dead and all of planet earth!

If you belong to Jesus, you already own everything...but it's not time to take possession yet.

If you don't belong to Jesus, then today is your day to become a son or daughter.

MY FAMILY AND I JUST GOT BACK FROM FL and most of you saw my pictures and videos. We woke up every morning to stunning sunrises over the ocean, where the sun was red giant on the horizon. We watched the sky at night light up like a pink and yellow

fire as the sun set. We sailed out on the waters of the ocean which were emerald and blue colored, and peaceful. We snorkeled, swam, and kayaked in the same waters.

The house we have there is right on the water with its own private beach. The weather was breezy and 80's, and we could lie in a hammock nestled between 2 palm trees.

One day as I was sitting there I said to God: *"why do I need to leave here? Why can't I stay longer? This house and property are mine! I inherited it from dad and it belongs to me. I could wake up every day here, in paradise, and be happy!"*

Even as I was saying these things, I started thinking about ***all my responsibilities here in NY***. Tree planting and spraying season was coming quickly, cabin rentals starting soon, several weddings scheduled, the church, family, and more. I was actually on the water in my kayak while having this conversation with the Lord.

Then I said ***"you know God: it's frustrating to own a piece of paradise and not be able to live in it!"***

Then God responded: *"now isn't the time, son. You're here to work for Me and My Kingdom. I know the earth is a place of hardship and pain, but Paradise is coming. Just like this house, you already own everything and the time will come for you to inherit it. For now, continue My work here."*

The time to receive our full inheritance isn't yet...but its coming!

[Rom 8:23-25 ESV] 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.** 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience.**

Once it's here, it's forever! It won't be like a vacation that comes and then goes. After we're resurrected like Jesus, and He brings the full manifestation of His Kingdom to earth, as it is in Heaven, everything we get from Him is eternal.

I end today with the final words in the last book of the Bible: Revelation chapter 22:

[Rev 22:12, 20-21 NKJV] 12 "And behold, **I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me**, to give to every one according to his work. ... 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!** 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.