

Feb 05, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
A Christian's inheritance is guaranteed forever

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
In life's challenging voyage, we can take courage that our "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15) owns the ship and shares all with us. Praise God, we are joint-heirs with Christ!

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will*

(Eph 1:5 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 14, 2010)*

**Series: Creation & Salvation**

**UNIT: The Church Is Born**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Delivered From Bondage**

(Gal 4:8-20)

## Heirs of the Promise Gal 3:26-4:7

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews what the promise does for us as contemporary believers who are **Heirs of the Promise**. The **study's aim** is to learn to align our thinking with God's revealed promise, which will help us spiritually and mentally. The **study's application** is to understand and appreciate what God has done for us by including us in this promise.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

As we contemplate the high calling of belonging by faith to the church of the Lord Jesus, we are led into a consideration of some very important concepts, such as inheritance. Inheritance is a rich truth in the Bible, going all the way back to the promise of worldwide blessing given through the patriarch Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). Believers in Jesus are heirs of this blessing. The book of Galatians explains that an heir is a son and will come into his inheritance in due time. A son or heir has a superior position to that of a slave or a servant. A believer in the Lord Jesus Christ becomes an heir of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He is connected to God and to the church of Jesus Christ, having received the privilege of a rich family inheritance. Our text outlines the beautiful truth that our position as heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ takes no notice of ordinary human distinctions. Three couplets are marked out for our understanding. The first couplet is racial (and perhaps religious). Among religious Jews of the first century, the sharpest possible distinction was maintained between themselves as the people of Israel and the other "nations" (Gentiles). Fellowship between religious Jews and Gentiles was not possible on any level. One group was "in" and the other groups were "out"—outside of the covenant of blessing, outside of God's grace, yes, out as far as one can be out. But in Christ, no matter what religious or racial background one has, faith in Christ brings us into the same church, with the same salvation and the same inheritance. The former distinctions no longer count. The second distinction is class, which of course had powerful implications in the ancient world. There were large numbers in the slave class in the Roman world—estimates range from ten percent of the population to as high as sixty percent. Slaves were owned by masters and consigned to their lot in life. They had certain occupations and duties, but they could escape their predicament only in certain prescribed ways, which they did not control. The free class had all the power. One group had rights; the other group had no or very limited rights. But when the gospel was preached, slave and free received the same salvation and came into the same church. This is why we see so much teaching in the New Testament on the relationship between slave and free. It was a big deal for those two populations to mix in the same churches—and mix they did. Jesus Christ takes believers of all classes and makes them equal heirs of salvation. Finally, the distinction of gender was addressed. Both men and women are invited to drink equally of the mercies of Jesus. All who believe, whether male or female, are privileged to belong to Him as co-heirs. What wonderful unity all the heirs of salvation possess! Let us make sure we live it out. What love should be found in the church! So much of life is about unbiblical restrictions, preferences, obstacles, and prohibitions. The logic of grace destroys these common barriers within the church.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Our Position in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26-29)**

#### *Brings us to Christ (26)*

Bringing to Jesus as part of the fulfillment of the law (Matt 5:17-18)

Bringing to Jesus so that Jesus can live in us (Gal 2:19-20)

Bringing to Jesus to find the true reality (Col 2:16-17)

Bringing to Jesus so that there will be no condemnation (Rom 8:1-2)

Bringing to Jesus so that we can stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Bringing to Jesus to become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

#### *Baptizes us into Christ (27)*

Baptized in Jesus and His death (Rom 6:3)

Baptized in Jesus as part of God's unity (1 Cor 12:13)

Baptized in Jesus' name to become a disciple (Matt 28:19)

Baptized in Jesus so as to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

Baptized in Jesus so that we will be raised by Him (Col 2:10-12)

Baptized in Jesus to have a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21)

#### *Positions us one in Jesus (28)*

One in Jesus through Jesus' prayed to God (John 17:22)

One in Jesus through being on flock (John 10:16)

One in Jesus through being gathered into one (John 11:52)

One in Jesus through being one Church body (1 Cor 12:12)

One in Jesus through Jesus being our peace (Eph 2:14-16)

One in Jesus through one faith (Eph 4:4-6)

#### *Positions us heirs to the promise (29)*

Heirs because of overcoming the world (Rev 21:7)

Heirs through faith (Rom 4:13)

Heirs through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

Heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7)

Heirs that have the oath of God (Heb 6:16-18)

### **Escape from Enslavement to the World (Gal 4:1-3)**

#### *Escape from being treated as a child (1-2)*

Treated as a child because of being worldly (1 Cor 3:1-3)

Treated as a child because of thinking like a child (1 Cor 14:20)

Treated as a child because of not allowing the Holy Spirit to interpret (1 Cor 2:14)

Treated as a child because of being foolish and not understanding God's will (Eph 5:17)

Treated as a child because of not being able to bear more knowledge (John 16:12-13)

#### *Escape from being under bondage (3)*

Under bondage because of disobedience (Deut 28:45-48)

Under bondage because of prideful leaders (Isa 39:1-7)

Under bondage because of sin (Jer 15:13-14)

Under bondage through own fault (Jer 17:4)

### **Redemption through Jesus Christ (Gal 4:4-7)**

#### *Because Jesus was born under the law (4)*

Born under the law to fulfill all righteousness (Matt 3:15)

Jesus grew up under the law (Luke 2:21-24)

Born under the law to fulfill God's prophecy (Gen 3:15)

Born under the law to satisfy the sign of the Messiah (Isa 7:14)

#### *Redeemed from the law through Jesus (5)*

Jesus came into the world to redeem His people (Luke 1:68)

Jesus redeemed me from the curse of the law (Gal 3:13)

I have redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)

Redemption resulting in the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14)

Redemption from all wickedness (Titus 2:14)

Jesus' redemption is eternal (Heb 9:12)

Jesus is the redemption of the saints (1 Cor 1:30)

#### *Redeemed through the Holy Spirit's indwelling (6)*

The Holy Spirit gives life through His indwelling (Rom 8:9-11)

Indwelling because of being the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16)

Indwelling that is the good deposit guaranteeing salvation (2 Tim 1:14)

Indwelling because of loving God and Jesus (John 14:23)

#### *Redeemed by being an heir through Jesus (7)*

Heir because of overcoming the world (Rev 21:7)

Heir through faith (Rom 4:13)

Heir through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

Heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7)

Heirs that have the oath of God (Heb 6:16-18)