**February 26, 2017 “An Obtained Inheritance” Ephesians 1:11-14**

It is my opinion that one of the great struggles in the life of a Christian is that we live in a world where telling the truth is more of an abnormality than opposite which is fabricating something that sounds so good but really does not have any substance to it.

For example, how many of us after having gone on the Internet has not had a pop-up window appear telling us that someone has just found a new miracle food that the medical establishment wants to keep hidden from you. This is a breakthrough that will naturally lower your cholesterol, boost your immune system, cause you to lose weight without exercising, remove all those unsightly wrinkles and keep you from getting cancer?

We live in a world where promises are frequently broken. We routinely expect our politicians to make promises that we know and they know they will never keep. To be very honest how many of us haven’t made promises that we too have not kept?

So how then are we to believe the promises of God when our world reflects just the opposite? Isn’t that the struggle we often face? Am I going to believe God and take Him at His Word? Do I really trust Him enough to build my life on His promises?

Paul addresses this dilemma in this passage of Scripture. In Ephesians 1: 3-14, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul, lays a foundation so that whatever trials may come our way, we have a solid footing for our lives today and for eternity.

Note the progression in this passage of Scripture:

1. Vs 3-6a… before the foundation of the world… before anything but God was ever in existence… He chose us to live with Him eternally.
2. Vs 6b-10… Here is where we now live in the plan of God. We have redemption through Christ and He is still redeeming a people for Himself today. “Oh the blood of Jesus… it washes white as snow! People are being changed today through the shed blood of Jesus.
3. Vs 11-14… we have an inheritance… this is ours in today, kept in heaven for us and it will be revealed to us at the proper time.
4. How do we know this is true?
   1. Titus 1:1-2… who cannot lie
   2. Romans 4:18-21… being fully assured that what God promised… He was able to perform
5. We have obtained
   1. What tense is this verb?
      1. It is past tense… we have obtained
      2. Note Ephesians 2:4-7
         1. No, I am in Osseo, Wi
         2. Yes, but one day… we will be seated together around the throne of God feasting at His table… spread before us since “before the foundation of the world”
   2. Do not miss these words
      1. Vs 10b… “In Him”
      2. When you and I come to Christ we often say “I have received eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins”
      3. That is correct but it is not the fullness of the promise of God in Christ
         1. Note I Corinthians 3:21-23
            1. You belong to Christ
            2. He belongs to God
            3. Everything Christ inherits from God the Father

You and I inherit

Romans 8:16-18

* 1. Key to joy in this Christian life
     1. Galatians 2:20
        1. Philippians 1:21-24
           1. I have work to do…
           2. I have an inheritance that outshines the sun

To die is gain

“And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”

* 1. Dual citizenship
     1. I Peter 1:3-5
        1. One eye on this world… how we may live for Christ
        2. One eye on heaven…

1. What is our inheritance?
   1. It is every promise that God has ever made
      1. II Peter 1:2-4
      2. II Corinthians 1:20
   2. Lord’s Supper
      1. What are we really celebrating?
         1. His promise of redemption
            1. This is My body which was sacrificed for you
            2. “God will provide Himself a Lamb”
         2. His promise of His return
            1. “In My Father’s house are many mansions… I go there to prepare a place for you… that where I am there you may be also”