

Key References:

Romans 8:1–2 (ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Hebrews 1:2 (ESV)

² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

1 Peter 1:3-7 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 - Fellow heirs

Read Romans 8:1-2. On Sunday Mike said that some Christians see salvation only as a destination; they wait and hang out there until they die and receive a heavenly inheritance. In what way is there more to being saved than just knowing you are eternally secure?

Read Hebrews 1:2, 1 Peter 3-5 & Romans 8:16-17. Do you often think of yourself as an "heir of God"? What do you think that practically looks like? What are actually we inheriting?

What would life be like if you lived in the full confidence that you are "fellow heir with Christ" everyday? Read John 1:12-13.

2 – Hardships

What do you think the correct explanation of "provided we suffer him" in Romans 8:16-17 is?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. Why do both these passages, after mentioning our coming inheritance, remind us of current suffering & trials? In what way do they each differently give purpose to current hardships?

3 - Heirs to do good works

We've read Ephesians 2:8-10 several times over the last weeks. When someone knows they are a co-heir with Jesus, how does that produce a genuine willingness to do those good works?

Mike said one possible title for this week's sermon was "restoring the joy of our salvation". Would you say the joy of being saved can become diminished over time? How can we increase the joy of salvation in our lives?

In Romans 8:16 it says that "the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God". What does that mean? Is that something you can feel happen? Why is it important that we are confident in our adoption?

4 - Dreaming big

What is the biggest, most ambitious, most ridiculous dream you've had about accomplishing something within God's Kingdom?

Read Ephesians 2:1-7. In the knowledge of that how high should we be setting our targets for what we want God to accomplish through us? What do you want God to accomplish through you?