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Permit #361

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Sharing in the Inheritance

The continuing challenge for the followers of Christ is to keep their focus fixed on eternal things. The love of money, and the scramble for food, clothing, and shelter stand as an exhibit of how much pull the things of earth have. These things of the world have such gravitational force because they belong to the realm of what is visible, and therefore that which is obviously critical for sustenance and survival. The things of eternity, because they belong to that invisible realm, can seem not to be real because of the lack of tangibility.

Hence it is that the faith of Christ draws children of God out of the traps that Satan has to offer through the sense gates, and helps them to see with spiritual eyes what is true and enduring. Esau, because he could not see this eternal value, sold the most important inheritance of all time for a pot of stew; Jacob instead became the ancestor of those who would become the base for God's plan to reach the world because he recognized the value of the promise to Abraham and Isaac. It is important to desire an inheritance; it just has to be the right one!

▲ **The share** — There is nothing earthly about the inheritance in which the saints will share. The scripture thusly speaks in terms such as "the riches of His glory" to communicate the extreme value of the unseen realm, using something out of the physical existence to create a spiritual picture. Christians are therefore spoken of as "fellow heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). The apostle Paul, then, in communicating with the brethren in Colossae, comments on how the children of God are "joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:11,12). Since the individual would have been disqualified for sharing in the inheritance based on his own merit, he is grateful in the maximum degree for the efforts of Christ which qualified him to participate in such glorious eternal treasure. Brethren who keep their focus on things above are therefore constantly "joyously giving thanks to the Father"!

▲ **The light** — The inheritance of the saints is "in light." While this might be easy to brush off as an incidental added thought, the "inheritance of the saints in light" is one of the great aspects of the "upward call of God in Christ Jesus." God begins our education in this matter of "light" at our conversion in immersion. Christians are a special people, said the apostle Peter, who "proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). This is not just light; it is "marvelous light"! Not only are saints in this light, spiritually speaking. "For God, who said 'Light shall shine out of darkness,'" asseverated the apostle Paul, "is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). The light of God's glory is actually shining in the inner man of the follower of Christ. "You were formerly darkness," Paul informed us, "but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

This "light" is unseen in the physical realm. But it is there, brilliant and transforming, revealed through God's Spirit-inspired scripture, seen by the eye of faith. And eventually the children of light will be revealed at Jesus' second coming. When this mortal will have put on the immortal, then our bodies will be transformed into conformity with the body of Jesus' glory. "Everything that becomes visible," averred Paul, "is light" (Ephesians 5:13). Then the true saints of God will be able to glory in His revealed presence. "And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23). Are you qualified for your share?

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