



# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

## The Kingdom of God, Pt. 1

Pastor John Riggs

### Summary:

This powerful message confronts us with a sobering reality and an incredible hope. Drawing from 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, we're reminded that while the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God, those who have been washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ have a guaranteed future. The passage challenges us to examine our lives against God's standard of righteousness, not comparing ourselves to others around us. We discover that our inheritance isn't something we earn through works, but something we receive as children of God, joint heirs with Christ Jesus. The message unpacks what it truly means to be born again, exploring how we've been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's glorious Son. We learn that the Holy Spirit dwelling within us serves as a seal and guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire full possession of it. This isn't just theological theory—it transforms how we live today, knowing that the best is yet to come. We're called to understand our times, to be serious about sharing the gospel with urgency, and to live as kingdom citizens who will one day rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. The inheritance awaiting us is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for those who trust in Jesus Christ.

### Video Breakdown:

- Chapter 1: Who Will Not Inherit the Kingdom 0:00 - 7:00
  - We examine the characteristics of the unrighteous who will not inherit the kingdom of God and understand that righteousness must be measured against God's holy perfection, not human standards.
- Chapter 2: The Gospel and Our Inheritance 7:00 - 23:00
  - We learn what the gospel truly is and how through faith in Christ we obtain an inheritance in the kingdom of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our future possession.
- Chapter 3: Born Again to Living Hope 23:00 - 38:00
  - We explore what it means to be born again and how this spiritual rebirth is the only way to see and enter the kingdom of God, resulting in an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance.



## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned and Read:

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Main text about the unrighteous and inheritance of the kingdom
2. Colossians 1:13 - Rescued from domain of darkness, transferred to kingdom of God's Son
3. Romans 8:18 - Sufferings of present time not worth comparing to glory to be revealed
4. Ephesians 1:11-14 - Obtaining an inheritance in Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit
5. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Born again to a living hope and imperishable inheritance
6. John 3:3-7 - Nicodemus and being born again
7. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - The gospel: Christ died, was buried, and raised
8. Galatians 1:11-12 - Paul received the gospel through revelation of Jesus Christ
9. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - Christ made sin so we might become righteousness of God
10. 1 Corinthians 15:14-24 - Resurrection essential to faith; Christ as firstfruits
11. Hebrews 9:22 - Without shedding of blood, no forgiveness of sins
12. 1 John 1:7 - Blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin
13. Titus 3:5-7 - Saved by washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
14. Hebrews 10:22 - Hearts sprinkled clean, bodies washed with pure water
15. Acts 1:5 - Baptized with the Holy Spirit
16. Ephesians 1:13 - Sealed with the Holy Spirit (mentioned again)
17. Colossians 2:13-14 - Forgiven, record of debt canceled and nailed to cross
18. Hebrews 10:8-14 - Christ's single sacrifice perfects those being sanctified
19. Romans 5:1-2 - Justified by faith, peace with God
20. Ephesians 4:17-24 - Put off old self, put on new self
21. 1 Corinthians 1:30 - Christ became wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption
22. Romans 8:14-17 - Led by Spirit, adopted as sons, heirs with Christ

### Referenced from Old Testament:

23. Leviticus 18 - Source for list of unrighteous behaviors (general reference)
24. Leviticus 19 - Source for list of unrighteous behaviors (general reference)

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

25. 1 Thessalonians 4 - Rapture/resurrection event (mentioned as "one of my favorite passages")
26. Revelation 20 - Great White Throne Judgment (alluded to regarding judgment)
27. Hebrews 9:27 - Appointed once to die, then judgment (alluded to)
28. Romans 10:14-17 - How will they hear without a preacher (alluded to)

Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

Kingdom of God Theme:

- Matthew 25:34 - Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
- Revelation 20:4-6 - Reigning with Christ for 1,000 years
- Zechariah 14:4 - Feet on Mount of Olive

Gospel/Salvation Theme:

- Romans 1:16 - Gospel is power of God for salvation
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - Saved by grace through faith

Judgment/End Times Theme:

- Revelation 20:11-15 - Great White Throne Judgment
- 2 Peter 3:10 - Day of the Lord

Righteousness Theme:

- Isaiah 64:6 - Our righteousness as filthy rags
- Philippians 3:9 - Righteousness through faith in Christ

**NOTES:**

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**Key Points:**

- Christians have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's glorious Son through faith in Christ
- Believers will literally rule and reign with Jesus Christ on earth for 1,000 years in the coming kingdom
- The unrighteous (those outside saving faith in Christ) will not inherit the kingdom of God
- Inheritance in God's kingdom is not earned but received as children of God through union with Christ
- Believers have been washed (cleansed from sin), sanctified (set apart as holy), and justified (declared righteous) through Christ's atoning work
- The gospel consists of three essential elements: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to Scripture
- Paul received the gospel directly from Jesus Christ through revelation, not from other apostles
- The resurrection of Christ is essential to the gospel; without it, faith is futile and believers remain in their sins
- Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their inheritance until they possess it fully
- Being born again is the only way to see or enter the kingdom of God
- The world is moving toward uncertain times and the day of the Lord, making gospel proclamation urgent
- Christians should memorize Scripture and not take access to God's Word for granted
- Believers are adopted as children of God and can call Him "Abba, Father" in intimate relationship
- True saving faith involves complete commitment and trust in Christ, not mere intellectual acknowledgment

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**Discussion Questions:**

- How does understanding that we are already part of God's kingdom spiritually change the way we live our daily lives and make decisions?

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- What does it mean to truly believe in Christ versus having only a head knowledge of Him, and how can we examine our own faith to ensure it is genuine?

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- In what ways does the reality of Christ's future physical kingdom and our role as joint heirs impact how we view current suffering and trials?

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- How should the truth that we have been washed, sanctified, and justified affect our response when Satan brings condemnation or guilt from our past?

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- Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so essential to the gospel message, and what would be the implications if Christ had not been raised from the dead?

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- How can we effectively share the complete gospel message with others while ensuring we communicate both the problem of sin and the solution in Christ?

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## Small Group Guide: "The Best Is Yet to Come"

Based on 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

### Opening Prayer

Begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help group members understand and apply God's Word.

### Icebreaker Question

What is something you're looking forward to in the future that gives you hope or excitement? How does that anticipation affect how you live today?

### Sermon Overview

This message focused on the incredible inheritance awaiting believers in Christ—the Kingdom of God. We explored what it means to be washed, sanctified, and justified, and how understanding our future inheritance should transform how we live today.

### Key Scripture Passages

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - The unrighteous and the transformed
- **Romans 8:18** - Present suffering vs. future glory
- **Ephesians 1:11-14** - Our guaranteed inheritance
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** - Living hope through resurrection

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Salvation (20-25 minutes)

1. **The Gospel Defined:** According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, what are the essential components of the gospel? Why is the resurrection so critical to our faith?
2. **Three Transformations:** The sermon highlighted that believers have been:
  - **Washed** (cleansed from sin)
  - **Sanctified** (set apart as holy)
  - **Justified** (declared righteous)
3. Which of these three truths is most meaningful to you personally right now? Why?
4. **Born Again:** Read John 3:3-7. What does it mean to be "born again"? How would you explain this to someone who has never heard this term before?

### **Our Future Inheritance (20-25 minutes)**

4. **Inheritance vs. Earning:** The sermon emphasized that we don't earn our inheritance—we receive it as children of God. Why is this distinction important? How does this differ from what the world teaches about earning our way?
5. **Kingdom Reality:** Read Romans 8:14-17. What does it mean that we are "joint heirs with Christ"? How should this truth impact our daily lives?
6. **Present vs. Future:** Romans 8:18 says our present sufferings aren't worth comparing to the glory to be revealed. How does keeping an eternal perspective help us navigate current difficulties?

### **Living in Light of Eternity (20-25 minutes)**

7. **Urgency of the Gospel:** The sermon stressed the importance of sharing the gospel because people's eternal destinies are at stake. What holds you back from sharing your faith more regularly?
8. **Fruit of Salvation:** The sermon challenged us to examine whether there is genuine fruit in our lives and the lives of those who profess faith. What are some evidences of true salvation that should be present in a believer's life?
9. **The Coming Kingdom:** We learned that believers will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years. How does knowing this future reality affect how you view your current circumstances and responsibilities?

### **Key Takeaways**

1. **Salvation is a gift, not something we earn** - We inherit the Kingdom because we are children of God through faith in Christ.
2. **The gospel is non-negotiable** - Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.
3. **We are sealed by the Holy Spirit** - The Spirit's presence in us guarantees our inheritance until we fully possess it.
4. **The best is yet to come** - Our present reality, while good, doesn't compare to the glory that will be revealed.
5. **Urgency matters** - People without Christ face judgment; we must share the gospel faithfully.

### **Practical Applications**

#### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Memorize the Gospel:** Commit 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 to memory so you can clearly articulate the gospel when opportunities arise.
2. **Pray for the Lost:** Make a list of 3-5 people in your life who don't know Christ. Commit to praying for them daily this week.

3. **Share Your Testimony:** Write out your testimony focusing on how you were washed, sanctified, and justified. Be ready to share it with someone this week.
4. **Study Your Inheritance:** Do a personal study on what Scripture teaches about the Kingdom of God and our future with Christ. Start with passages like Revelation 20-22.
5. **Examine Your Fruit:** Honestly assess whether your life shows evidence of being born again. Are there areas where you're still living like the world? Confess and repent where needed.
6. **Encourage a Believer:** Share with another Christian this week about the hope of our future inheritance and how it encourages you.

### Reflection Questions for Personal Quiet Time

- Do I truly understand the gospel? Could I explain it clearly to someone else?
- Am I living with an eternal perspective, or am I too focused on temporary things?
- Is there someone God is prompting me to share the gospel with?
- Do I live like someone who has been washed, sanctified, and justified?
- How does knowing I'm an heir of God's kingdom change my priorities?

### Prayer Focus

**Praise:** Thank God for the gift of salvation and our guaranteed inheritance in Christ.

**Confession:** Confess areas where we've been living for the present rather than with eternal perspective.

**Intercession:** Pray for lost friends and family members by name, asking God to draw them to salvation.

**Supplication:** Ask God to give us boldness and opportunities to share the gospel this week.

### Next Steps

- Commit to bringing your Bible to church and following along during the sermon
- Consider joining a ministry team to serve the body of Christ
- If you're unsure of your salvation, talk with a group leader or pastor this week

### Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying Romans 8:18 over your group, thanking God that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us.

**Leader Tip:** Be sensitive to anyone in your group who may be questioning their salvation. Create space for honest conversation and offer to talk one-on-one after the group if needed. Don't let anyone leave uncertain—point them clearly to Christ.



## Sermon Transcript:

Anyway, glad you're here this morning, and I would like to invite you, if you would please, open your Bibles once again to 1 Corinthians 6.

And then we have kind of parked here for a few weeks.

But I want to take this opportunity as we stop here and as we just kind of just take just a break here.

I want to just spend some time unpacking several things that we could easily just run over and but they'll be a blessing to you as you actually learn these incredible truths.

And so we're going to do that by God's grace today.

So 1 Corinthians 6, verses 9 through 11.

For those of you that are new, we're so glad that you're here.

Those watching today and listening, we want to welcome you as well.

I told also Jeff down there at our other campus, we want to make sure we say hi to them today as they live stream in as well.

And he said that they love it down there when we make sure we mention them.

So we've got a group of people meeting down there every Sunday, live streaming along with us and studying the word together with us.

All right, yeah.

I don't know if they can hear you, but I'm sure that they're cheering anyway, so, but absolutely.

Well, today, guys, we're going to actually begin making our way into what the Bible teaches about our future as followers of Christ.

We've been looking at those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We've been looking at that for a few weeks.

Today, we're going to learn more about those who will inherit the kingdom of God and that this truth is our future.

This is a factual thing that will take place.

We currently, right now, are part of the kingdom of God in Christ by faith.

If you're a Christian here today,

scripture tells us in Colossians chapter 1 verse 13 that we have been we've been rescued from the domain of darkness and we have been transferred into the kingdom of the glorious son so right now if you're a Christian Jesus Christ through his atoning work on the cross of Calvary made a way for you and I and the rest of the world to be reconciled to God and to be delivered from

from the kingdom of darkness.

And we do that by faith in Jesus Christ.

That's how we are saved, by faith.

And we are now been taken out of the kingdom of darkness or the domain of darkness.

We've been brought into the kingdom of the glorious Son.

You belong to the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

And this is an incredible truth.

Spiritually right now, this kingdom is growing and it is building.

But there's coming a future time where Jesus Christ will literally set up His kingdom rule here upon the earth, where He will rule with a rod of iron.

And this is incredible as we're going to learn.

Did you know, Christian, that you and I are going to rule and reign with Jesus Christ here on this earth for 1,000 years, according to Scripture?

we will take part in the ruling and the reigning this is the aspect of the kingdom of god and so for us as christians this is a truth that we need to understand in order that we're able to know how we should be living our lives in this day in which we have been given this gift of life understanding these truths i'm telling you they are going to transform

The way that you will live out the days that God has given you in this life.

They will change the way you think about this life and about the life that is promised to come.

Why is that important?

Because the world is moving toward the day of the Lord.

And we are living in a very uncertain time.

And it's going to begin to get more and more uncertain as we move forward.

And the system that we've all been part of is going to have to be torn down in order for that the new system of Antichrist and the new world order will actually rule the world for a very short period of time as the world accepts its false Christ being the Antichrist who will be embodied by Satan himself.

This is what's coming.

That's why you're seeing all these things being torn down.

The things that we've often held to be so normal for us in our own lives.

For boundaries and all of the things.

Economic systems.

Everything that's happening.

Even the birth of AI and how it's going to play a major, major, major role in the last day antichrist system.

A surveillance system.

And all that it will bring

will be part of what the younger generation here for sure is going to live in.

You younger people that are in here this morning...

You're going to live in a world that you can't even imagine in the future.

It's not going to be anything like the world you live in currently.

It's going to drastically change.

And if Jesus doesn't tarry long, all of us are going to experience these incredible, drastic changes that are coming upon the world.

We're already seeing these things happen.

They're going to continue to happen.

Why is that?

Because we're moving to the day of the Lord.

And when the day of the Lord happens, Christ is going to return.

He is going to raise the dead in Christ.

We who are alive and remain on the earth will be caught up to be gathered with Christ in the air.

And when He comes and puts His feet on the Mount of Olives and splits the Mount of Olives from north to south,

then he will set up his kingdom as he brings judgment upon this earth.

And we, at that time, we will then rule and reign with Christ

for a thousand years according to what scripture teaches.

So what is this gonna be looking like?

What is the reality of this?

Well, we're gonna begin to unpack this, Christian, for you to know and understand.

Why is the gospel so important?

Because everyone who is in here listening, watching, and outside who does not know Jesus Christ,

as their Lord and their Savior.

They have not trusted and believed in the gospel.

They're living lives of revelry, licentiousness, and sin.

They are outside the faith.

They only have these two things to look forward to.

Once to die and then face the judgment of God.

That's what's coming.

After that, they will be thrown alive into the lake of fire.

Forever and ever and ever and ever.

This is why we are to be about the Father's business.

Because we don't want anyone to go to hell or then the judgment and then the following lake of fire.

That's not what we want for anyone that we love or anyone that we know.

Therefore, it is so imperative that we understand the days in which we are living in and our responsibility to be those who preach and teach and share the message of reconciliation, how man can be reconciled to God by faith through the only means of salvation, and that is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God in flesh,

That is the gospel, the good news, and we're going to look at that in a little more detail today. Church, if I had something that I could really give you to encourage you is, we need to be busy about telling people about Jesus.

We need to be inviting people, sharing the truth with people.

We want them to know the Gospel.

We want them to be saved.

If you have family members, if you have friends, if you have co-workers that do not know Jesus, don't mess around.

Tell them about Christ.

Pray that God would give you opportunity in their life to share the truth of the gospel so that they can hear and in hearing that they might believe the gospel and be saved.

That is the imperative work that God has called all of us to.

So let's get started this morning.

Romans chapter 8 verses 18 says this, the Apostle Paul writing about this incredible future event that's going to take place called the kingdom of God in Christ, the literal physical ruling kingdom that is coming.

Paul says this, he knows these things to be true.

He says in Romans 8, 18, he says, for I consider that the sufferings of this present time, they are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

In other words, what is Paul trying to say?

And the title of the next few weeks messages will be entitled this for you to understand Christian.

This is not the best right now.

No, the best is yet to come.

This is the truth of us as Christians.

The best is not now.

The best is yet to come.

And Christian, it is factually guaranteed going to happen.

This is going to take place and the best is yet to come.

That is a fact.

So let's get back to 1 Corinthians 6, and we're going to unpack a little bit more of this.

I'm going to read this passage to you again out of verses 9 through 11.

And this is not a passage we want to be trivial with, nor the other passages that we've shared over the last three or four weeks.

Remember, I spent about three weeks...

preparing our whole body to be able to understand this passage.

If you just came last week, you probably don't have a great understanding of what we were really teaching last week.

Go listen to the two sermons prior to that because I wanted to make sure that we did our due diligence and to build this up so you and I can fully grasp and understand the significance and the nature of what is being spoken of here by the Apostle Paul in verses 9 through 11 of chapter 6.

Paul says, do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

We talked about this last week.

People compare themselves with the righteousness of those around them.

And they have a tendency to say, well, I'm not as bad as so-and-so, but I may not be as good as some, so I think I'm pretty straight with God.

No, you're not.

The problem is our standard of righteousness is being measured with the wrong standard.

It must be measured against the true standard of righteousness, which is God's holy perfection.

That is the standard of righteousness.

And so Paul, to make sure that his readers understand this, because they might look around and say, well, I'm not as bad as old Joe over there.

If your name's Joe, I'm not singling you out, okay?

No, they have a tendency to do that.

So what Paul does here is he now he's gonna go ahead and share with them, not a full list, not exhaustive, but he's gonna share with them some attributes of the conduct of unrighteous people.

And he gets every one of these from what?

Leviticus chapter 18 and Leviticus chapter 19.

Paul grabs these from the Old Testament.

This is examples of how the unrighteous live and he moves down through here.

He says, don't be deceived, Paul says, neither the sexually immoral.

We have a problem with that word today because most people don't even know what sexual immorality is anymore because we live in a sex-crazed society.

Where even in the church, people think that fornication is no big deal.

That's a bunch of baloney.

Fornication is a very big deal.

And it's no less of a big deal than homosexuality.

Because it's a twisting and a perverting of what God has given in the gift of sex in marriage with one man and one woman.

If we take it outside of God's design, it's kind of like fire.

It works great in a fireplace and it will heat your house and you can enjoy the benefits and the blessings of a fire that is crackling and that is burning and that is emitting heat.

But you take that same fire and you take it out of the designed box that God intended for it to be in and you place that in the floor of that house, it will burn the house down.

And that's the point.

And so the sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God, Paul says.

He moves on.

He says, nor idolaters, nor men who practice homosexuality, that encompasses all of that, nor thieves, before you get too haughty, Paul says.

Some of them might say, well, at least I'm not engaged in those things.

Paul says, hold on, let's go back to Leviticus.

Neither thieves, if you're a thief, Paul says, if you have a lifestyle of stealing, it's a big deal.

It's breaking God's law.

He says, nor thieves, nor greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers.

And this is not an exhaustive list because he gives more of them in other letters he writes to other churches.

He says, these will not inherit the kingdom of God.

He wants these Corinthian people to understand this.

It's not trivial how we live.

Our conduct matters greatly.

We need to live like we are born again.

Like we belong to the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

Like Satan no longer has any power over us.

Like sin has no power over us anymore.

Like we've been set free from all of that and been given the Holy Spirit who lives in us to help us live in power the new life in Christ Jesus that produces fruits of righteousness.

That's what Paul is teaching these people here.

Now, he moves on and he says this, and such were some of you.

He puts in the past tense here.

This is important because it's not who we are anymore once we come to faith in Christ.

He says, you were washed, you were sanctified, and you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our God.

That is a picture of what it means to be born again.

to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

That is a picture of salvation, a picture of redemption.

That is what happens to everyone who has been born again of the Spirit.

They've been washed, sanctified, and they have also been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the word unrighteous here as we learned last week is a person in violation of God's standards.

Describes being found guilty in God's court of law.

There is going to be a court date for every person.

They will stand in God's court.

You can read about that in the latter pages of the book of Revelation.

When the great white throne judgment is actually spoken of and we can read what happens there.

The court of law will be established.

The books are going to be opened.

And Scripture tells us each one will be judged according to the deeds that they've done in the body.

It's all going to be recorded.

It's not going to be hidden.

Thank God in Christ Jesus, we've been justified.

That is a justice type of work where we are set right with God.

That our sins have been completely forgiven.

That there's no longer a record of our sins.

Thank God for that.

Why?

Because those things have been covered by the blood and the sacrifice that Jesus Christ offered in His body through atoning work on the cross of Calvary.

It is also a binding legal infraction against his law, which calls for divine retribution because God is holy.

He is also just.

He is loved.

He's compassionate.

He is good.

He is all those things.

But it calls for divine retribution for disrespecting true justice.

When people say, I want justice.

No, you don't want justice.

If you, Christian, were to get justice, you would receive hell, damnation, and the lake of fire.

Grace is God giving us what we didn't earn and we didn't merit.

It is the gift of salvation.

And so we don't want justice.

We want mercy.

And we want grace.

The word inherit here is a word that means to be in error.

It is someone who obtains an inheritance.

And here's the thing, Christian.

You don't earn your inheritance.

Just with your family, for example.

Let's bring it into a physical reality here.

You get an inheritance from your family if there's one to be given, not because you worked for that inheritance.

That inheritance was actually worked for and was actually established by another, but it is given to you from that individual.

It is an offering.

It's something that you obtain by birthright.

Because you're your father's son or your father's daughter, whatever the situation might be, you receive an inheritance from your father and your mother.

You didn't work for it.

You didn't earn it.

You were born into that family and you're one of their children.

Same thing here with the kingdom of God.

We don't actually work to inherit the kingdom.

We work because we are kingdom kids.

That's why we work.

And so this is very important to understand that, that the inheritance is something that you did not merit.

You didn't earn it, but you're going to receive it.

And that is a gift of God's incredible grace and mercy.

And how do you become an heir?

Only one way, not because you work for it, not because you merit it, it's because you have been joined to Jesus Christ, who is the heir of the kingdom.

And because you're an heir of the kingdom being joined with Jesus Christ, you're a joint heir, think about this, with Jesus Christ.

So the inheritance, the Christ, the whole thing, the kingdom, we get to take part in that.

We have part in this inheritance because we are joined together with Jesus Christ.

And we are then called the children of God.

That's why we receive this incredible inheritance.

It's an incredible thing we're going to learn about.

Now, the inheritance word in the Strong's actually means it's an act of receiving what God has set aside for His own.

Who set this aside?

God did.

Just like your parents set aside something to give to you if there's anything to give.

But God has a lot to offer because He is God.

It is covenant privilege as sons and daughters.

We are in covenant with Christ.

Therefore, as sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ, we receive this inheritance that God has set aside with his own doing.

Each occurrence ties, each occurrence of this word in the New Testament ties inheritance either to Christ himself or to the believer's relationship with him.

This is very critical.

Why do you get an inheritance?

Because you are in Jesus Christ, Christian.

That is why.

You didn't merit it.

You didn't earn it.

But you're going to take part in this incredible inheritance.

Now, the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We understand that.

The unrighteous, guys, are all those outside of saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Why is that important?

Because...

If you're outside of Christ, who is the only way to be reconciled to God, you're still in your sin.

You're still at enmity with God.

And you're still guilty of all of your sin.

And justice will play its way out.

But the good news of the gospel is that the free gift of salvation has been given by God out of his tremendous love, grace, and mercy.

And it is open for anyone who will believe the gospel of Jesus and be saved.

That's the good news.

But that's going to come to an end one day.

There's no such thing as being halfway in or halfway out of the kingdom of God.

You're not in halfway and in the world halfway.

You're either in the kingdom of God or you're out of the kingdom of God.

There's no in between.

There's only one that you can be a part of.

You are either a son or daughter of God by faith in Christ or you're not.

Only those who have the righteousness of God in Christ will inherit the kingdom because the kingdom is for the righteous.

That's who the kingdom is for.

Our inheritance is tied, guys, to our union with Jesus.

That's where we are blessed through Christ, in Christ, by Christ.

All of that is true.

Now look with me in Ephesians chapter 1, 11 through 14.

If you would, please open your Bibles there.

Ephesians 1, 11 through 14.

If you happen to be here for the first time, we really, really encourage you, please bring your Bible.

Bring your Bible with you.

Why?

Because we're here to study the Word of God.

Bring your Bibles.

Yeah, I know there's some really interesting things on Facebook to be scrolling through, but let me tell you something, it's all worthless stuff.

This is what we need to know, Christian.

And it's far past time.

We're not living in Mayberry anymore.

We need to get serious about our relationship with Christ.

And let me tell you something.

Don't take for granted the fact that you have a Bible.

You may not always have one.

And if you're looking at AI to give you the right scriptures, don't think for a moment it can't be changed at any time.

You need a hard copy of the Bible.

You need to read it and you need to study it.

And let me encourage you one more step.

Memorize the word of God.

Why?

Because if you were ever at a place in time where you don't have access to one of these, you have access to this all the time.

Know the word, study the word, memorize the word of God.

Why is that important?

Don't take it for granted in these days, Christian.

Please do not do that.

Alright, moving right along here.

Ephesians chapter 1, 11 through 14.

In Him, who is Him?

It's Christ.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

In Christ we have.

He is the Son.

He is the Son of God.

He is God in flesh.

He is the eternal Son of God.

He has the inheritance of the Father.

We, in union with Christ by faith, we have, according to Paul, obtained an inheritance.

And that word obtained an inheritance, the whole word we have obtained an inheritance is actually one word in the Greek.

And it simply means by casting lots.

what it means we are part of that having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works out all things according to the counsel of his will so that we who were the first to hope in christ might be to the praise of his glory in him that's christ listen were in him you also when you heard

When you heard the what?

The word of truth.

This is why you share the gospel because it's the word of truth.

And scripture says, how will people believe if they don't hear?

And how will people hear if no one goes or is sent?

This is the important aspect.

Hearing the gospel.

It says, and Paul says to these Ephesian believers, and when you heard the word of truth, what is that?

He goes on and says, the gospel of your salvation.

and believed.

You heard and you believed.

And this belief we're going to get to here in a minute is talking about this faith, this trust.

It is placing our entire trust upon Jesus Christ who we believe is the Son of God and who died for our sins.

Why do you believe?

Because of faith.

Why do you believe?

Because you've heard the Gospel and the work of God in you and the Spirit of God moving in you.

You went from being an atheist and unbelieving and agnostic and then you hear the gospel and for some reason you believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and he died for your sins and he was buried and he rose again.

You believe that.

That is because of God's work in our life and this incredible gift of faith that we have and we hear the gospel.

We believe and we are saved.

Moving along.

We were sealed at that moment.

that we believe, that genuine trust.

I'm not talking about flippant belief here, like a head knowledge, like, oh, yeah, yeah, I believe in God.

Well, what God do you believe in?

A lot of people believe in God.

If you don't believe in Jesus Christ, He is God, by the way.

That's why I make so much of who is Jesus.

He's God.

That's who He is.

If you're just believing in the pie in the sky guy called God, you're not believing the gospel because the gospel is centered around God the Son, Jesus Christ.

That's who we believe in and we put our full trust.

I mean, it is putting every chip you have on Jesus Christ because you realize how definitively hopeless you are, lost in your sin and the payment of your sin is death and understanding the judgment and the coming wrath of God and the lake of fire for all eternity.

You have no hope outside of Jesus.

So when you learn of this incredible gospel, what do you do?

You turn away from that old life, you repent of that thing

You turn away from it and you trust fully upon Jesus Christ.

He says we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit who is a guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.

We will possess the kingdom one day.

We will.

And the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a stamped seal that what guarantees your inheritance that you have obtained by faith in Jesus Christ.

It's good to know that.

So in Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

In Christ we have been given the Holy Spirit to live in us, to seal us, who guarantees our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, all to the praise of you.

No, to the praise of His glory.

Who gets all the glory?

God does.

God does.

When does this happen?

It happens the moment we hear and believe.

And this belief is just, like I said, not a cavalier thing.

It's not a cavalier thing.

No, it is putting full trust in Christ.

And the only way you can do that is with faith.

Genuine, saving faith.

That God gives a portion of faith to everyone.

Now, let's move through this and see what else we can learn here.

The word believed here is the word pistou, or pistou, I think is how you pronounce that.

I don't speak fluent Greek, but anyway, that's the pronunciation of it.

It comes from the Greek word pistos, is where the foundation of that word or the root of that word is.

But let's learn a little bit more about this.

This word means to commit, right?

See, there's something that happens when you let go of something and you commit to something else.

You ever had to do that before?

That before you could get to the next thing, you had to let go of what you had a hold of?

That's called commitment.

In other words, when you're dating people and you tell your wife, I want to marry you and you know that when you marry her, what are you doing?

You are leaving every other girl on the face of the earth.

You are turning away from anyone outside of her and you're grabbing hold of her and she is what you are committing yourself to.

It's the same way with Christ.

You turn away from the rest of that old world and that old life of sin.

Why?

Because it only brought you death, judgment, and the lake of fire that's coming.

And what do you do?

You turn loose of that thing, man, and you commit and take hold of Jesus Christ.

It's commitment.

It's a commitment you make.

It's a beautiful thing.

It also means to put in trust Christ.

to entrust especially one's spiritual wellbeing to Christ.

In this context, this word means believing that leads to, proceeds from God's in birthing faith.

That's what this is.

So we're sealed and we're guaranteed this inheritance.

And this inheritance is awarded by allotment, which we can go back to the Old Testament and study that as well.

But we're not going to forsake a time in this particular message this morning.

It is the portion that God assigns.

That's what this inheritance is speaking of here.

Colossians 1.13, we talked about that.

Let's move on to 1 Peter 1, 3 through 5.

I promise you, I told my wife, I think we'll actually have a shorter message this week, but I don't know.

We're trying to, trying to keep them as short as we can here for sake of time without, you know, we want to make sure we get to these things because they're so important, Christian.

Peter here in 1 Peter 1, 3-5, he says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

According to His great mercy, God's great mercy, He has caused us to be born again."

to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Where does our hope come from?

The resurrection.

Absolutely it does.

To an inheritance.

That what?

That is imperishable.

It is undefiled and it's unfading.

It is kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in this last time.

John chapter 3, if you go there with me, go left in your Bible, you'll come there.

John chapter 3, we're going to look at verses 3 through 7.

Most of you probably already know where we're going.

This is the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night, and he's going to be asking, as one of the religious leaders of the nation of Israel, he's going to be asking Jesus some questions.

He sees all the miracles, he sees everything, the teachings and all that's going on, and he's sitting back scratching his head and he wants to know some things.

Jesus answered him, that's Nicodemus.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, that's what we're looking at in 1 Peter.

That's what we've been talking about in Ephesians.

This is the work of God in the gospel.

This is the response of faith.

This is the outcome.

It's the salvation.

This is what we're looking at.

This is the being washed.

This is the being sanctified.

This is the being justified.

This is speaking of what Paul writes to the first Corinthians here in their salvation.

This is what it is.

And he says, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

You're not going to enter it.

You're not going to see it.

You must be born again, Jesus tells Nicodemus.

Nicodemus says, how can a man be born when he is old?

Can he enter a second time into the womb of his mother and be born?

Jesus answered, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of spirit is spirit.

Do not marvel that I said this to you.

You must be born again.

So the only way anyone enters the kingdom is if they are born again.

And how are they born again?

They are born again when they heard the gospel and they believed upon Christ and they were regenerated and born again.

And what?

They have been born of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit comes in and dwells, giving a seal that we are born again, and it's a guarantee of the deposit that has been made toward the coming inheritance that we will receive as Christians.

Paul here is speaking a lot about the salvation aspect.

So, here's the question.

What is the gospel?

The word of truth.

That brings salvation and the promise to inherit the kingdom of God for those who are by faith trusting in Jesus Christ.

Committing.

Putting full trust in Him.

What is the gospel?

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians what the gospel is.

In case you're wondering.

Yes, we do a lot of talking about the gospel here.

Why?

Because it's the power of God to salvation for all who believe.

It's why the gospel matters so much.

If you want people to know Jesus Christ, share with them the gospel.

Share with them the gospel.

Here's what Paul says the gospel is.

Just in case you were wondering, you can find this in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, one through four.

And you might want to highlight this or underline it.

This is important that you understand this.

Notice what Paul is going to say here.

Sometimes when people share what they call the gospel, they just say, hey, do you know that God loves you?

And God sent his son to die for you.

Isn't that great?

Oh yeah, that's great.

Well, if you believe, you're saved.

Hold on.

They don't even know why they need to believe.

And who is Jesus?

Let me show you why this is so important.

You ready?

Here we go.

In verse 1 of chapter 15, this is the gospel now.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel that I preached to you.

This is the same group of people that Paul's writing to there in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 that we're reading about in verses 9 through 11 in our text today.

This is later in the letter.

He says, this is what I want to remind you of the gospel that I preached to you, which you received it.

okay you receive this gospel message in which you stand they have this standing by faith in this gospel they're standing in this position of righteousness before god not merited by their own righteousness but by the imputed righteousness of christ that was given to them by faith in christ's work of atonement his burial and as we're going to see this resurrection is very important

And by which you are being saved.

This gospel.

Faith in Christ.

His gospel message.

Well what did Christ do?

He goes on.

If you hold fast to the word I preach to you.

You might underline this.

Unless you believed in vain.

There are lots of people who believe in vain.

For I delivered, Paul says, to you as of first importance that what I also received, that Christ died for sin.

He didn't die because of the problems that we have in our culture in America.

He didn't die for all of these things that they're making the main things.

No, these are all symptoms of the root problem.

Jesus died for sin.

That's why He died.

Number one thing to note, Paul says this is the gospel.

Look what else he says.

In accordance with the scriptures, the Old Testament already spoke forward about this coming Christ who would die and God would crush and he would atone for the sins of man and he would bring many sons to glory.

This is the Christ.

Notice what else he says.

And Christ, number one, he died according to the scriptures, that he was buried.

This is important because Christ really, literally died and experienced the wages of death.

He experienced the wages of sin, excuse me, which is death.

And he was buried, very important.

And the length of time he was buried was very important according to the mandate of the day that said how long someone had to be considered dead to be really dead.

didn't want to swoon, didn't want to come out of a coma, you know, whatever it is.

Let's make sure they're really dead, so let's wait three days.

This is what's happened here with Christ.

He was buried.

Then notice, that's not all of the gospel yet, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

This is so vital that we understand this because Paul goes on and talks about this gospel.

Where did he get this gospel, folks?

He didn't get it from Peter.

He didn't get it from James.

He didn't get it from John.

He didn't get it from any of the apostles.

By the way, they had the same gospel.

Where did Paul get his gospel?

Galatians 1, 11 through 12 tells us where Paul got his gospel.

It wasn't handed down to him from the apostles.

Not that it would have been incorrect to do so.

Paul makes it clear where he got his gospel from.

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me, it is not man's gospel.

for I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it from any man, but I received it through revelation of Jesus Christ."

Who gave Paul the gospel?

Jesus Christ gave Paul the gospel.

Who gave the apostles the gospel?

Jesus Christ gave the apostles the gospel.

The gospel is, is that Jesus Christ died for sin, according to scripture.

He was buried.

And he was raised again to life victoriously on the third day according to the scriptures.

You say, well, John, why does that matter?

Well, let's look here and let's see here.

There is only one true gospel.

And Paul received this from Christ.

This is the finished work of Christ in his atoning sacrifice.

Redemption that brought reconciliation for mankind.

2 Corinthians 5.21 says, "...for our sake God made Him," that's Christ, "...who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus."

See the change there and how that all worked?

Christ who never sinned.

God in flesh came and took upon our sin.

And God made Him sin.

He bore our sin.

God's wrath was poured out on Christ.

That is the wrath that we had merited.

The death that we had merited.

and god crushed his own son in order that his perfect sacrifice and the shedding of his blood would atone for all who believe by faith upon christ that they would receive the grace and the mercy of god's gift

of righteousness placed on them as they put their trust in the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for their sin.

And by faith we trust and believe all that and we are born again, regenerated, filled with the Spirit of God, sealed until the day of redemption is completely full.

And this is the work of atonement and regeneration and new birth that these Corinthians had received.

This is the gospel that they believed, that they were standing in, that they were being saved in.

It is that Jesus died

was buried, and he rose from the dead.

Now, moving along, why is this important?

We said that earlier.

Paul goes on in this same passage in 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

He goes on, and this is what he says in verses 14 through 24.

This is why this is significant.

1 Corinthians 15, 14 through 24 this morning.

And if Christ has not been raised, this is a big deal, then our preaching, Paul says, is in vain.

If Jesus Christ has not rose from the dead, Paul says that his preaching is an absolute total vanity.

It's in vain.

And then he says to these believers in Corinth, and your faith is in vain.

If you don't believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you're not saved because you haven't believed the gospel.

He makes it very clear.

We are even found, Paul says, if Christ hasn't been raised from the dead, to be misrepresenting God because we testify about God that He raised Christ whom He did not raise if it's true that the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

And if Christ has not been raised, notice this, your faith is futile.

You're still in your sins.

And then those who have fallen asleep in Christ, they have perished.

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, he was nothing more than another zealot who simply died for a movement.

But oh, he's not just another man.

See, if Christ didn't raise from the dead, then your faith is futile and you're still in your sins, Paul says to these Corinthian believers.

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ, I know you think they're doing well, but if Jesus didn't raise from the dead, guess what?

They've actually perished.

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied, Paul says.

But in fact...

But in fact, Paul says, Christ has been raised from the dead.

He is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For as by man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

Adam, the first man, all die.

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, all made righteous.

Not all, but all who have put their faith in him.

This isn't teaching universalism here.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ, Paul says, shall all be made alive, but each in his own order.

Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming.

those who belong to Christ.

You can read about that in one of my favorite passages of Scripture in the New Testament.

When you read about that in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, you read about this rapture event, this resurrection event.

This is what Paul's speaking about.

This is so cool to know these truths.

He says, then comes the end when he delivers the kingdom to God.

The Father, after destroying every rule and every authority and every power, Jesus Christ will destroy all power, all authority, and all rule.

And He will do that when He comes and destroys the Antichrist and this world system who worships Satan, the Antichrist, the beast system.

He will come and He is going to level it all in more ways than one.

now first corinthians chapter 6 11 he reminds us such were some of you now we're going to get into this and beautiful aspect of this you're washed you were sanctified you were justified in the name of the lord jesus and by the spirit of our god we've been looking at salvation here the gospel and all of these truths about those who will inherit the kingdom of god we are going to next week begin to unpack what is the kingdom of god what's going to happen in the kingdom of god and why is this so incredible for us to know that

Well, the word washed here means to be washed away.

It means that our sins have been washed away.

It refers to an entire washing, the complete removal of sin and its debt.

Paul says, such were some of you, but this is what's happened to you.

You've been washed.

You've been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

And all of your sin, all of your sin, praise God, has been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

He has purified for us all one time He did this work.

Isn't that good news?

Hebrews 9.22, that's who these Corinthians were.

Paul's reminding them of who they are in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9.22, and I know I'm rushing this morning, but I do need to get through this.

It's getting lengthy here, but let me get through this.

I'm going to go quickly so you can maybe go there.

If not, please write these down and do further study.

Eric will help you keep up on the screens.

Hebrews 9.22 says this, Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

That's why you remain in your sins if you reject the gospel of Jesus Christ, because nothing has been able to wash away your sin and your guilt before God.

There is one thing by God's grace that does wash away not only your sin, but also all of your guilt.

And it is the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless blood of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Christ, your Lamb, died, God's Lamb, for you.

And His blood washes away and purifies us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.7 says, But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

And the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Titus 3.5-7 He saved us not because of the works done by us in righteousness.

But according to His own mercy, some of you need to be reminded of this, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

You say, well John, what about someone who professes to be a Christian but they have no fruit of Christ in their life?

There's no this regeneration.

There's no renewal.

They still are no different than before they lived

before they made a profession of faith.

Here's what I tell you to do.

Continue to pray for them.

Number two, continue to talk to them about the things of God and assume in your mind that they may not be saved.

Don't simply just stop it when somebody makes a profession of faith and they live like the rest of the world, like nothing's ever changed.

There's been no power, no gifting of the Holy Spirit.

Nothing new has come.

Don't just go, well, I dunked them in the water and they're good to go.

And try to settle in your own mind this nagging question that they may not be saved.

Don't deceive yourself.

Don't lie to yourself just to make you sleep better at night.

If they have no fruit of righteousness in their life, you love them, you pray for them, and you keep talking to them about Jesus.

You assume that maybe they just don't know Christ.

That's why people in this infant baptism stuff in the Roman Catholic Church irritates me so bad.

Number one, it's not biblical.

Number two, it's because they tell people that baby is good to go now the rest of their life they've been dunked in water.

And parents have this appeasing that comes over their mind because some priest who lies to them tells them he's good even though they live like a hellion all their life.

That's why I get frustrated at that system.

Because it's so full of lies and billions of people are being led astray.

Sorry, I caught a little frustrated there.

Some of you say, you're too passionate, John.

No, you're not passionate enough.

That's the difference and that's the problem.

If you get a little passionate about Jesus like you do football or whatever thing you're passionate about, you might actually tell people about him and they might get saved.

But we're not passionate about Jesus.

And if someone preaches with passion, we get up and leave because that guy, he's just got too loud on me.

Oh my word.

Really?

It's because I love people.

Because I care about their soul.

Because I don't want anybody to go to hell.

And hopefully you don't either.

Hebrews 10.22 says, Let us draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith with our hearts sprinkled clean.

Oh, isn't it nice that your heart is sprinkled clean?

A clean heart, man, doesn't that do something for you?

Your heart's been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Oh, man.

Acts 1-5.

For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

We've been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

That's our true baptism.

You know that?

You can be dunked in water 25 times and never actually be saved, but you get baptized by the Holy Spirit in regeneration.

You are saved.

You are saved.

Yeah.

Ephesians 1.13, we talked about that one.

Number two, they were sanctified.

There is hagiazos here again, to purify by expiation.

That means to be free from all guilt.

These Corinthian believers like you, Christian, you've been freed from all guilt.

Satan is the accuser of the brother.

He brings these things to your mind, makes you feel dirty, makes you feel guilty of what you've done in the past that Jesus Christ died for, covered and washed clean with his blood.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

If you feel condemned, it's not because Christ is condemning you.

It's because the condemner, Satan himself, is condemning you.

Maybe you're condemned by your own thoughts, but Christ is not condemning you.

Not happening.

It means to be set apart from God, free from all sin, all guilt.

Expiation, in this word, it simply means by definition the act of extinguishing the guilt of someone.

Atonement, it is Christ's sacrificial offering on the cross for sin.

Colossians 2, 13 through 14.

And you who are dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive with him having forgiven us all our sins by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.

We read about that earlier.

This he set aside, nailing it all to the cross.

Hebrews 10, 8 through 14.

When he said above, you have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings.

These are offered according to the law.

Then he added, behold, I, speaking of Christ, I have come to do your will, speaking to the Father.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

And by that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

And every priest stands daily at his service offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins.

That's why they constantly keep working and working and working.

Because those sacrifices couldn't take away sin, couldn't wash you clean.

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice, that being himself, for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Notice the third thing these Christians had experienced in their salvation was justification.

They were justified.

The word here in the Greek means to be acquitted, cleared of all charges.

That would be the punishment we had merited, related to our sins.

Moreover, they are justified, made right, declared righteous.

We've talked about this several times, but it doesn't hurt to repeat these things.

Romans chapter five, one through two says, therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

We've been justified by faith.

Isn't that good?

You've been declared righteous before God.

These Corinthian believers who were once those things, all the unrighteousness of that, Paul says that's not who you are anymore.

Why?

Because you've been washed.

You've been washed clean.

You've been sanctified, set apart as holy, consecrated unto God, and you have been justified.

You have been considered just as if you never sinned.

Legally, God has set it right.

You are completely, perfectly righteous before God, not because of your righteous works, but because of the righteous Christ who came and gave His life so we could be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 4, 17-24 says,

We're almost finished.

Ephesians 4, 17-24, Now this I say and testify in the Lord that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do in the futility of their minds.

They are darkened in their understanding.

As Christians, we're no longer darkened in our understanding.

We have the mind of Christ.

We have the Word of Christ.

We also have the Holy Spirit of God living in us.

We don't live in darkness anymore.

Our understanding is something that God is going to teach us through His Word and the Holy Spirit leading and directing us.

We're not darkened in our understanding any longer.

We're not alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to their hardness of heart.

Speaking of the Gentiles, that would be everyone outside of Christ, they have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality.

That's what they do.

That's what we all did at one time.

Paul says not anymore.

They're greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

But that is not the way that you learned Christ, Paul says, assuming that you have heard about Him and you were taught in Him as the truth is in Jesus to what?

To put off the old self.

It's something that we do.

We deny the flesh.

Yes, we battle with it.

Yes, we struggle with it.

Sometimes we lose that fight.

But that's not who we are.

It's not our identity.

Thank God that's not any longer.

Which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

and to put on the new self, created, remember we are His workmanship, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Christian has not merited right standing before God by his own merits of righteousness, but rather by grace from God through faith in Christ Jesus, who has become, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1.34,

Because of Him, that is God, you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

We must never forget this amazing gift of God's incredible grace.

This is ours by faith in Christ.

As Christians, we have been washed, we have been justified, and we have been sanctified.

We are united with Christ by faith.

We have become joint heirs with Christ Jesus, who is the King of the kingdom, who is now spiritually growing and taking back what it rightfully is His.

And then finally, the kingdom to come in reality, in the physical world, in a physical kingdom.

This is coming.

Jesus Christ, He is our King, and He is our Lord.

Finally, we're going to wrap this up here.

Romans 8, 14 through 17.

And then we'll close this morning.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.

But you have received the spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry, Abba, Father.

Isn't that amazing?

You can call God your father?

This is a term of endearment.

It's kind of like when your child comes up to you and calls you dad or daddy.

Only your children call you daddy.

I hope.

I hope.

This is the point of what we're making here.

We have been adopted by faith in Christ.

We've been adopted as children of God and we stand in this place righteous before God, an heir, a joint heir with Christ Jesus of the glory to come.

And we call God our dad, our father.

It is personal.

It is intimate.

It is not God spinning the time hand and just stepping back.

No, God is so personal that he has come and he has dwelt inside of us by his spirit.

If you even could grasp what it means that the spirit of God lives in you.

Oh.

Oh.

Let's move on here.

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

And if children, then we are heirs.

We are heirs of God and we are fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

But as Paul said, I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Christian, this isn't the best time.

It's a good time.

But the best is yet to come.

Let's pray.

Father God, we love your word.

We love you.

We thank you so much that we're confident today that when we teach and preach the word of God, we share the word of God, we can trust that it will not return unto you void.

But Lord, it will accomplish that which you set forth to it to accomplish.

And so Lord, today we trust that that will happen.

I thank you so much, Lord, for this incredible salvation that we have.

And I know that as parents and as people who love others, Lord, we may know some people in our life that we're not entirely sure that they know you

I mean, they may have walked an aisle.

They may have raised a hand.

They may have made a profession.

But when you think about their life, you don't see really any evidence that they've been born again.

And so, God, we are not the judge of their soul.

You are.

But as people, we understand that we must continue to lovingly pray for them.

And we must lovingly share with them the things of God, hoping and praying if they are not in Christ Jesus, that they will come to the knowledge of the truth and they will be saved.

Father, thank you that you are faithful, Lord.

Thank you for your faithfulness, God.

For the rest of us here, Lord, thank you for our salvation that we have in Christ.

If there's anyone here, though, Lord, listening, watching, or are present here today that does not know you, Lord, you tell us in your word that today is the day of salvation, that if you hear his voice, don't harden your heart.

So Lord, I don't know if there may be someone here listening that is not saved, but God, today, if they are not, my prayer is that you have gone to them by your Holy Spirit and you have convinced them of their desperate situation in the lostness and the deadness of their sin and their reality of the wages of their sin being death.

There is no hope outside of this Jesus Christ.

And that, Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, they understand that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

He is God in flesh.

And, Lord, that He died for their sin.

That He was buried because of their sin.

And He died the death they deserved.

But He...

being God in the flesh, in order to bring a completion of our salvation, He rose victoriously from the dead and He conquered both death, hell, and then lastly the grave.

Father, if they will today, believing and understanding, knowing who You are, that they will commit to You, trust in You, believe in You, and turn away from what they've been holding on to, and they would cling to You, Jesus, today, Your Word tells us that all who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

So Lord, would you save them today by your grace and through the power of the gospel that has been proclaimed today.

For the rest of us, we leave here today, Lord, with such an encouragement in our hearts and such a joy, knowing and understanding, God, that we are your children, that we belong to you, that we are an heir with Christ Jesus.

And Lord, there's nothing in this world that will compare to the glory that will one day be revealed to us, God.

And Lord, we are not waiting solely for the kingdom to come.

We are already part of your kingdom, God.

So Lord, thank you for that and make you burden our hearts for a world that is still lost and still on their way to hell, that we would be burdened to tell people the good news of the gospel so that they might hear and believe the gospel and be saved.

Father, we love you today.

Thank you for everyone that's here today, Lord.

I know how much you love them.

And Father, I pray, Lord, that they will leave here today so very encouraged by your word.

Lord, we love you.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

If anyone needs prayer, please go into the lodge.

We have people that love to pray with you this morning.