

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART TWENTY FOUR OF SIXTY FOUR*

How would you react to learn that someone had died and left you a fortune? Well, it's true! Jesus died according to the will of His Father that we might be "rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him" (James 2:5).

James had just discussed the fallacy of exalting men because of earthly riches. A man with only material wealth is poor indeed. Some night the call will come for him to depart this life, and "whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20). Even while one lives, his possessions have no permanent value for "moth and rust consume, and...thieves break through and steal" (Matthew 6:19).

The child of God, even though he be poor in earthly considerations, is rich in his faith and he has treasures laid up in heaven "where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:20). The man rich in earthly things but without God passes away leaving his fortune behind, and as the rich man in the Lord's story, he goes to be in torment (Luke 16:23,24). The saint of God dies, but passes to his heritage as an heir of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven..." (I Peter 1:4).

We become heirs of God when we forsake everything in this world that stands between us and serving the God of heaven. "And every one that hath left houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29). Won't it be wonderful to hear Jesus say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). The promise is to those who love Him. We love God when we obey Him (John 14:15). Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). If you have not obeyed Him in this, will you receive the inheritance? Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Are you doing this? Are you rejecting an inheritance by living for sin? (B. G. Echols)

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