

I. INTRO

A. Ronald Read was a janitor in Vermont who lived simply, drove an old car, and wore patched coats. No one thought he had much. When he died in 2014, the town discovered he had quietly accumulated over \$8 million, by investing consistently, living humbly and letting time do the work. After his death he left an abundant inheritance to local hospitals, libraries, and charities. He lived as though he had nothing, but his inheritance was revealed at the end.

B. Ronald Read looked like he had nothing, yet his wealth was revealed at the end—so is true for believers.

1. We may look like we don't have much now because our inheritance is hidden, but it will be fully revealed in the age to come.

II. LEGAL DEFINITION OF INHERITANCE

A. Inheritance is the practice of receiving private property, titles, debts, entitlements, privileges, rights, and obligations upon the death of an individual. **Most laws only allow wills, and inheritances to be activated after some one dies**

III. THE GOSPEL GIVES US AN INHERITANCE

A. As born again believers we have been given an inheritance through the gospel not because Jesus died but because He lives.

1. Jesus' death secured and activated the believer's inheritance, and His resurrection guarantees it.

B. In the natural world we can't always experience the inheritances with the people who left them, but with Christ we share it together with Him now, and into eternity.

1. *15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death,(Jesus' death) for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.-Heb 9:15*

2. ***12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.-Colo 1:12***
3. ***The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.-Ps 16:6***

IV. CONTEXT OF 1 PETER 1:3-5

- A. **Peter is writing to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), who were facing intense pressure. They were socially marginalized, met with hostility, and in many cases persecuted, suffering the loss of status, security, and even property because of their faith.**
- B. **In our passages today, Peter lifts the believers eyes beyond their present suffering. He reminds them that though their pain on earth was real, their future was secure and glorious.**
 1. **On the other side of their suffering stood a full salvation and an inheritance reserved in heaven—kept by God and waiting to be revealed.**

V. 1 PETER 1:3-5

1. ***3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***
- B. **In these passages Peter contrasts the believers' eternal inheritance, which is sure and secure, with the earthly inheritances they were losing because through their suffering.**
 1. **What could be taken from them on earth could not touch what God had reserved for them in heaven.**
 - a) **Suffering cannot cancel inheritance – it only clarifies where it is stored.**

VI. FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR INHERITANCE

A. INCORRUPTIBLE

1. It describes something that cannot be damaged by time, sin, death, or external forces Everything you can lose is corruptible. What God has promised you is not.

B. UNDEFILED

1. Untouched by sin, corruption, or evil

C. DOES NOT FADE AWAY

1. it is eternal and never loses glory

D. KEPT BY GOD

1. God protects it and no one can take it

E. FULLY REVEALED AT JESUS' RETURN

1. Fully revealed and experienced at the return of Jesus

VII. ASSURANCE OF OUR INHERITANCE

A. Jesus' death secured it and His resurrection guarantees it.

- B. The Holy Spirit at salvation was sent to us to seal it by coming to live inside us

1. *13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.-Eph 1:13-14*

- C. In the ancient world, a seal marked **ownership and security**. When God seals us with the Holy Spirit, He is declaring, "You belong to Me, and My promise to you is secure." The Spirit's presence in our lives is the guarantee that everything God has promised will follow.

VIII. GOD HAS AN INHERITANCE (US)

1. *that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints-Eph 1:18*

B. God has not only given us a rich inheritance — He also receives one from us. Through the blood of Jesus, the Father gains an inheritance of His own: a redeemed people, living in a restored earth, belonging to Him forever.

1. *You shall be My treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.” Ex 19:5*

a) The Hebrew word for “*treasured possession*” refers to a king’s personal treasure—valued above all else. This is covenant language, emphasizing belonging, not merely blessing.

2. *9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special possession-1 Peter 2:9*

a) *Believers will delight in God forever, and God will delight in His redeemed people forever. This truth should awaken lives of reverence and consecration, reminding us that we no longer belong to ourselves—we belong to God.*

IX. TEN FACETS OF A BELIEVERS INHERITANCE

A. SALVATION

1. Salvation is part of our inheritance because it frees us from sin, brings us into God’s family, makes us heirs with Christ, and guarantees the full redemption secured by His blood.

B. GOD HIMSELF

a) The believer’s inheritance is **not first blessings, benefits, or heaven**—but **God Himself**.

(1) *Therefore Levi has no portion nor **inheritance** with his brethren; the LORD is his **inheritance**, just as the LORD your God promised him.-Deu 10:9*

(2) *O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;-Ps 16:5*

(3) *“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”-Gen 15:1*

(4) *they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God-Gen 21:3*

C. A KINGDOM

1. *Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘**Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**’-Mt 25:34*
2. *And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me.”-Lk 22:29*

D. RIGHTS

1. Our identity (sons, priests, bride)

- a) *12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: -Jn 1:12*

2. Access to the riches of the Kingdom

- a) *17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ-Rom 8:17*

E. ETERNAL FAMILY

1. *14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father [f]of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,-Eph 3:14-15*
2. Our Church family Our own marriages and children

F. AUTHORITY

1. *Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. We will judge angels-Dan 7:27*

G. RESURRECTED BODY

H. LAND (New heavens and new earth)

1. *The meek will inherit the earth*

I. A CITY (NEW JERUSALEM)

1. ***8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.....**10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.-Heb 11:8 & 10*

J. ETERNAL REWARDS

1. *Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.**"-Colo 3:23-24*