

The Hope of the Church of the One Body

Ephesians 1:3-14 (KJV)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We have been studying the hope of the Church of the One Body for eight lessons now and we have seen hope as defined as something of what is expected, or trusted in. The word “trust” in verse 12 could have been translated as “hoped in Christ”.

In the previous lesson, we looked at the hope of the one body being the out-resurrection which the Apostle Paul revealed in Philippians 3:11 and Colossians 3:4

Philippians 3:11(KJV)

- 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Colossians 3:4 (KJV)

- 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

There is a second coming of Christ to each group that has been called. The second coming to Israel according to the flesh they are looking for Jesus to come back which we looked at in Matthew 24 when he sets up the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

The Hope of the Church of the One Body

Another advent of the Lord is when he presents Heavenly Jerusalem coming down to be set up here on Earth which was covered in Revelation. This involves the group known as Abraham's seed which was identified in Galatians 3.

Now the third group that is looking for Christ's appearing is that of the church of the one body which involves the heavenly inheritance. In Philippians, we read of Paul trying to express some very important issues:

Phil 3:10-21 (KJV)

- 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- 11 **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**

The translators have not recognized the three spheres of blessing. This is the failure in the translation of this verse which has not been accurate. The phrase "resurrection of the dead" here should have been "the resurrection from the dead". This is because in the Greek it says "ek nekron" which denotes "out from among the dead people". This is the only time in scripture where this occurs.

In Ephesians 1, we see the three-fold charter of the church. We see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit working. We see the will of the Father, we see the work of the Son, and we see the witness of the spirit.

The will of the Father is shown in His choosing of us in Ephesians 1:4. We see the work of the Son in Ephesians 1:7 where we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace. And we see the witness of the Holy Spirit in verse 13 where when we believed, we were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

The word "inheritance" occurs twice in this passage of Ephesians 1:3-14, once in verse 11, and once in verse 14. There are also two "predestinations" in the passage as well. Verse 5 and verse 11.

Verse 5 is where He predestinated us to receive eternal life, and verse 11 is where He predestinated us to a specific inheritance. In fact, the proper translation should be "we have been taken for an inheritance".

The will of the Father, the work of the Son, and the witness of the Spirit, all three are involved with our inheritance... Praise God!