

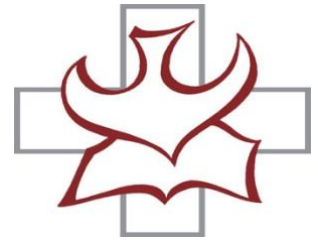
Eternal Inheritance

ALL SAINTS DAY

Eph 1:15-23 1 Peter 1:3-5 Luke 12:13-21

November 3, 2019

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A *Last Will and Testament* is a legal document which allows you to control how your estate will be distributed after you pass away. In it you direct who gets your money and possessions, who the guardians are for your minor children, any charitable giving you want to make, and you can even leave directions for the care of pets that you leave behind! *Maybe most common way that people think of a Will is in terms of an inheritance.*

God's gift of salvation is frequently described in terms of a *Last Will and Testament*. In fact, the Bible is divided according to the **OLD Testament** and the **NEW Testament**! Using this *Last Will and Testament* word picture of salvation, God is the testator; and you are the beneficiary. You get an inheritance from God through faith in His Son Jesus!

God sends His Only Begotten Son; His Firstborn from all eternity, into the world to be your Savior. *Jesus is the true Heir of God.* Everything the Father has is given to the Son. Jesus has inherited the world, the Church, and the Kingdom of Glory in His Resurrection from the dead and Ascension into Heaven. Jesus is the True Son of God who inherits everything His Father has.

But Jesus shares His inheritance with you!

Through faith, you become an **adopted son or daughter of God!** When the Holy Spirit creates faith in your heart through Holy Baptism and the Word of God, you come into God's family. God is your Father, you are His son or daughter; He has made you a heir!

For in Christ Jesus you are all **sons of God**, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, **heirs** according to promise. Galatians 3:26-29

Before your Baptism, you were outside God's family and lost in the world. **Sin** had separated you from God, His promises, and His inheritance; you were **trapped** in your evil desires and sinful nature. In fact, you **belonged** to your father Adam, and you inherited **his sin!** **Guilt** was a daily companion and **death** was the only thing certain in your life.

But God loved you, and He intervened in your life. He made the events of your life work so that you were brought to Holy Baptism. In the Water, the Holy Spirit created faith through the Word of God. You were Baptized and adopted into God's Family. You were given His Name: *the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*. You were adopted to be God's sons and daughters!

Now that you are in God's Family, you get an **inheritance**.

According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an **inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you 1 Peter 1:3-4

If you get an **inheritance**, that means that someone has died. Jesus is that someone.

When Jesus died, you get gifts; you get an **inheritance**. Jesus' death and resurrection begins the **NEW Testament** . . . It implements God's "Last Will and Testament". Your **inheritance** is the **forgiveness of sins** and **a home in heaven!**

When Jesus died on the cross, He was taking your place. He was your substitute. He traded His life for yours. He took your sins and guilt upon Himself and He faced the wrath of God in your place. That is why He died. God considers His death your death. Your sins have been paid for; they have been accounted for by Jesus. You are now “**set free**” from your sins. That is what **forgiveness** means. You are **set free**. Jesus died and you are **set free** from your sins and their punishment. You have a new life of holiness to live! Forgiveness of sins is your **inheritance**!

BUT THERE IS MORE!

When Jesus died, He died for all people. But Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He **rose from the dead** on the third day. In His resurrection, He defeated death once and for all!

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

When Jesus **rose from the dead**, He defeated death for us. Death is no longer the final enemy; it no longer enslaves you! When Jesus died and **rose again**, you were given the gift of **eternal life**! **A Home in Heaven** is your **eternal inheritance**! Because Jesus lives, you too shall **live**! No matter how or when you die; at the instant of death you will be with Christ in Heaven! Your **inheritance** as part of God's family is **eternal life**!

One aspect of **eternal life** is the **Resurrection of the dead**. The Resurrection of the dead means that your dead and buried body will rise from the dead on the Last Day. God will glorify your body and you will live in heaven forever in both body and soul!

The Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting is our **HOPE**. **HOPE** is confident faith that God will keep His promise to raise your body from the dead. It is rock solid. It is certain. God does not lie. Its already happened to Jesus! You have rock solid **HOPE** because eternal life is not dependent on you, but on Christ, who has already risen from the dead and defeated death and the devil! Because Jesus lives, you too will live! We believe in the Resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! This is your *eternal inheritance* in Christ! This is your **HOPE!**

HOPE is
confident faith
that God will
keep His
promise to take
you to Heaven!

Today, we are celebrating **All Saints Day**. It's a day to remember those who have died in Christ: they are with Him in heaven right now, and like us, they are waiting for the Resurrection of the Dead on the Last Day. We thank God for their faith and life, and we look forward to seeing them again in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our inheritance of **eternal life** takes the sting out of death; death is not final. It is not the end. It is not frightening. We have hope! Death is the doorway to heaven! We trust God's promises that we belong to Him and are His adopted sons and daughters. He will not forget about you! He has given you an inheritance through Christ: the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life everlasting!

God's *Last Will and Testament* was implemented by His Son Jesus Christ, and His death and resurrection. In God's *Last Will and Testament*, you are a beneficiary. The Lord has freely given you the gifts of the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting!

Amen!