

INHERITANCE

"Pastor, you often talk of inheritance, but how relevant is it to modern society?" The word inheritance appears over 200 times in the Bible, therefore, it must be an important topic. Proverbs 13:22 says, **"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous."** Most Christians like to quote the second part of this verse without taking into consideration the opening statement. However, both statements are clearly linked, and the key word is "wealth." In this instance, inheritance has to do with wealth. Therefore, what is being implied is this... A good man works hard to attain enough wealth so that he may leave an inheritance to his children's children, however, a righteous man has direct access to the wealth of the sinner (he doesn't have to sweat and toil to get it). Notice, it doesn't say that the righteous man should not leave an inheritance, it merely says that he would not have to struggle to accumulate wealth. After all, God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His people (Psalm 35:27)!

The bottom line is, our accumulated wealth should be passed down as an inheritance from generation to generation. And it should not be gained by sweat and toil! Proverbs 13:22 tells us that the wealth 'out there' is stored up for us to obtain. This lines up perfectly with Deuteronomy 8:18, **"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power (ability) to obtain (get, procure) wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."** Observe, it doesn't say that God has given us the power to create wealth, but rather, to obtain or get it! Which means it's already in existence. The wealth in the world system is 'laid up', 'stored', 'put aside' for the righteous. And because God has empowered us to lay hold of it, we can simply go out and get it! Nevertheless, we should always remember the Lord our God, and why He did it. God did it to establish His covenant from generation to generation!

Often when the Bible mentions from generation to generation, it is referring to something that has been passed down - an inheritance. W. E. Brown says, "In the theological sense, to inherit means to 'receive an irrevocable gift' with an emphasis on the special relationship between the benefactor and the recipients. Unlike legal inheritance, the benefactor, God, does not die, yet He provides material and spiritual blessings for His people. So, as Christians, the most thing to understand is that we are God's inheritance. Deuteronomy 9:29 says, **"Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm."** This was referring to the children of Israel, but it can also apply to Jesus and His work on the cross. Jesus brought you out of the kingdom of darkness by His mighty power and His outstretched arms! Therefore, you are His glorious inheritance! This inheritance highlights the dignity of your family relationship in Christ. No higher position or greater wealth can an individual acquire than to become an heir of God through faith in Christ. Besides the wealth that awaits you here on earth, you have an inheritance that has been put aside in heaven. These are the spiritual blessings you can draw upon at any time. So why not access them right now? God wants to meet all your needs according to His riches (wealth) in glory by Christ Jesus!