

Identity, Part 4 – I am Destined

Have you ever seen the look on Someone's face who has won – Publishers Clearing house / Lottery / Who wants to be a Millionaire

A) Look of excitement, shock, amazement-

It is a look that communicates – My life as suddenly been Changed forever

B)As believers in Jesus – we really should have that same perspective

1)Our lives have been changed forever.

C)But **not just our lives** – our ENTIRE DESTINIES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOREVER!

1)Because In Jesus Christ I **have become** the recipient of a remarkable treasure

2) Because I belong to Jesus – I am a beneficiary of Incredible wealth

C)Tonight we are in week four of our Series entitled Identity – Looking at the subject of **who we are IN CHRIST!** Spiritual DNA

First study we began by looking at the Incredible Greatness of who we have now been connected to. –

A)We spent some time looking at verses that revealed Jesus in all His glory, majesty Power and splendor.

Then in the 2nd study – we looked at the first of these 19 statements in the book of Ephesians **In Christ or In HIM**

A)Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed w/ Every spiritual Blessing in the Heavens in Christ* – Overall Statement – Many Blessings – all available – those in Christ

B)**All the promises of God** – All 7,787 – Yes and Amen in Christ

C) Then Paul began to get more specific 1:4 – **Chosen in Christ** – The Blessing of ELECTION

1) And 1:7 I am Redeemed - **In Him We have redemption** – In Christ Redeemed / Forgiven

D) Today we come to statement Ephesians 1:11 *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

D)We have been predestined – or Predetermined in Christ to be recipients of a glorious destiny that includes a wonderful inheritance.

The scriptures tell us this about Jesus: Hebrews 1:2 – **Jesus is the Heir of all things!**

A)Everything that God has made, everything that God possess, Jesus is the Heir of all of that!

B)**All wealth, glory, majesty, splendor.**

Bb)God has given everything to His Son – He has appointed Jesus to be the Heir of all things

C)That is amazing – but the Bible also says this about us – who are in Christ

- Romans 8:17 – **“We are joint heirs with Christ.”**

D)He is the Heir of all things – We are Joint Heirs

Think of it this way:

A)Some of you when you got married – you brought debt into the relationship.

B)School loans, bad credit, credit card debt, - Debt from a first marriage. -

C)Seen many couples start off that way: **Creates some added pressure**

But I have also known a few Brides who married someone who upon getting married – had the means to erase that debt.

A)It was like they had the opportunity to start all over! –

Awesome

B)But What we have in Jesus is even better than that! –

1)Yes it is true that we came into the relationship with Debt – major debt – a debt we were never going to be able to pay.

C)But when Jesus went to the cross – IT IS FINISHED – declaring the debt had been paid in full.

1)You gave your heart to Christ – ERASED – GONE! NEW START

But as the bride of Christ we didn't just marry someone who could take care of our debt –

we married into Enormous wealth! Blessings

A)Tonight we are to look at the nature of our Destiny – Our inheritance in Christ –

B)I want you to note that there is a future and a present aspect to it!

C)I want to start by looking at the future aspect of our Inheritance –

1)Because if we understand what is waiting for us – Future - It should affect how we live in the Present.

D)Consider what the Bible says about our Heavenly inheritance!

#1 It is an Eternal inheritance!

1 Peter 1:3-4 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,

Today you can marry into wealth – but there is no guarantee that you will always have that wealth.

A)Cars lose their value by \$1,000 the minute you drive it off the lot.

“Changed my mind – I want that one - \$1,000 less – 2 miles”

B)Houses get old – things break – always in need of repair

C)But Peter says of our inheritance in Christ – the glory and splendor that awaits us –

1)**Incorruptible** - Can't ruin it in any way!

2)**Undefiled** – Can't be defiled at all.

D)Doesn't fade - Rot rust – tarnish – **“no normal wear and tear”**: {Who your kids are right}

RESERVATION IS COMPLETE!

A)Ever **Prepay for something** – like a vacation or something. {What are you expecting when you show up?

B)Hidden cost – the extra –

B)No extra cost - – no surprises – Just as was Promised – Better than you could imagine -

1 Corinthians 2:9 **"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man**

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

C)There is a place at the table with your name on it!

1)Seat on the plane - Not a middle seat!

#1 Eternal – Everlasting -

#2 We are given a new Home!

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

B) **Prepare a place for you:** Earth 6 days – Heaven 2,000 yrs

1) Paul said indescribable – Vision

C) There is a reason The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about Heaven –

1) I think it is possible that the Lord doesn't tell us a whole lot about what Heaven looks like is because HE **KNOWS we couldn't handle it**

D) He knows That if we knew exactly what it was going to be like we couldn't think of anything else !!! (All **Consumed**) – Worthless
1) So heavenly minded – no earthly good.

E) We can only imagine – all we would be doing

Restaurants – don't show you the **dessert Tray before dinner** – a lot of us wouldn't order the main course (**2 of those / 3 of these**)

A) Dessert at Thanksgiving – Pace myself

B) See The Lord doesn't want us to see **this life as merely a formality** – something we just have to get thru so we can get to the Good stuff

#3 We are given new Bodies – Turn to 2 Corinthians 4 :16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Anyone here going through a heavy trial?

A) Seems unbearable? – Physical ailments

B) The Bible refers to it here as light affliction – Not the Bible's way of calling you a wimp!

C) No the idea is – In comparison to how great and grand what is awaiting us is – it is a light affliction – that is for a moment!

1) Struggling for years – but on the other side – **just a light affliction that appears for a moment** –

D) What is coming is a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

1) If you were to put them side by side on a scale there would be no comparison – Far weightier / Far more glorious

2 Cor 5:1-8

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

A) **New Bodies** { No more pain / No limitations { time/ space / No more flaws - bald hair / crooked teeth straight

B) No more Weight problems { **eat and not gain weight**–

C) Spirit as a Guarantee – Serious

1) Engagement ring –

D) Means more to Her – Longing

E) Discontentment – Listen – Longing for heaven { Holy Spirit

F) Longing for intimacy w/ God { Longing for intimacy

#3 New Bodies -

#4 Aspect of our Future Inheritance/ We are going to be given a Reward

A) In heaven we are going to be rewarded for our performance here on earth – Did we Run well etc

Matthew 16:27

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Matthew 6:1

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

B)Big Criteria for the rewards are our motives: Seen by men / Glorify God

Now the idea of rewards being given freaks out some of you because you have never won anything in your life.

A)Your little sister used to beat you at checkers – you have always been the runner up – you have been the guy/gal – marked by ALMOST

B)That has been your story – so when you hear about rewards – right away sends a negative connotation .

1)To be honest some of us have felt like losers – never the guy or girl who got the breaks

C)Went thru life watching others get the trophy or the ribbon or hoisted up on the teams shoulders

1)That has only been our story in our dreams

Now about 10 yrs ago in youth sports here in America there was a major shift that took place - alleviate that feeling.

A)This is what they started doing – they started giving trophies to everyone – on every team.

B)The team that came in first place got a trophy – but so did the team in last place.

C)The best player on the team got a trophy – but so did little Billy who sat in right field picking his nose and chasing butterflies.

D)When they did that – it infuriated some people. The feeling was “you just took all the competition and drive to work out of youth sports”

1)In one sense – they were right {Goal boosts self esteem

E)But in another sense – what those in charge of youth sports did is not that far off of the heavenly game plan.

God the father you see makes it really easy to get rewards in Heaven!

Matthew 10:42

“And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Some of you hear that and think – that is it man I am volunteering tonight to be the snack guy in Childrens Ministry.

The Bible mentions four different crowns that the believer can receive upon his/her entrance into heaven.

2 Timothy 4:8 “The Crown of Righteous” – for those who love His appearing.

A)Those who are simply fed up with life on this planet and are looking forward to the Coming of Jesus – Rapture –

1)Crown – those eagerly waiting!

1 Thessalonians 2:19 Crown of Rejoicing – For soul winners – those who have led someone to faith in Christ.

1 Peter 5:4 The Crown of Glory – given to those who are faithful in ministering the word. – Home group leader – Sunday school teacher

Giving you all kinds of reasons to sign up for Children’s ministry tonight

James 1:12 – The Crown of Life – Given to those who endure trials and temptation.

We are all going to be rewarded in Heaven – Key is this, some more than others { Patiently suffering – Vicki Alred

A) Extra Jewels in their Crown

B) All believers are going to enjoy heaven – Capacity different –

1) Some Dixie cup – others 32 ton container / pots pan

C) We can look forward to rewards –

D) All of the non winners on earth are going to stand in the winners circle in heaven.

1) Your day is coming – what the world has over looked { Your Father in heaven has seen

E) What the world has forgotten your Father in heaven has remembered

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

A) He doesn't forget and He is going to reward you – What was done in Secret shall be rewarded openly

B) This is awesome to me – that when it comes to giving Praise & honor and Recognition – God doesn't delegate the Job

C) The President might send the VP or one of his aides to Congratulate someone on a great achievement –

1) But God doesn't send an Angel / Doesn't send Gabriel {He doesn't have an angelic spokesperson

D) No according to Paul – God Himself is going to praise His Children

Jesus will say – *Well done .. Good & faithful servant – enter into rest*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not

as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

So here is Paul's point - Knowing what our Destiny is and what awaits us should affect the way that we live in the Present –

A) John expressed a similar thought in his first epistle

1 John 3:2-3

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

B) Knowing what is coming should affect the way that we Run

1) And here is the good news – God has given us as part of our inheritance what we need to RUN WELL IN THE PRESENT!

C) Note 3 things about the present aspect of our inheritance

1st In Christ we are the recipients of Abundant Resources

A) When I was in High school – I went out for the Basketball – team {Upon making the team I inherited two things: 1st was a uniform

B) I will never forget taking that home and trying it on – wondering who wore that before me – Who else played in that Jersey { good / bad

C) I also inherited a tradition – of winning – my school was known for its athletic achievements – winning teams

1) Basketball was one of its better sports

D) So those were two things I inherited for making the team

1) But the skills of the person who played before me – or the tradition of the School – could not help me to be a better basketball player

E) See I did ok as a basketball player – But I lacked in 3 important areas – Height / Speed and Jumping ability { But I could shoot

1) There was nothing magical about that Uniform –

But from Christ we receive all the Resources needed to be Successful people in the Kingdom of God

A) Think of it this way: Bill Gates has once again – as of May 2013 topped the Forbes list of the world's wealthiest man – net worth 72.7 billion

B) Let's say that Bill Gates – called you & said – Let's go into Business together

1) You bring your assets & resources & I will bring mine – Lunch you show up w/ 1,000 dollars – put on the table – He – 72.7 Billion

C) In essence by placing us in Christ – and making us Joint Heirs that is what God the Father has done w/ us

1) Partnership together : Your Resources – I will bring mine

D) I could do this by myself – but to bless you – let you help – like a dad **“letting his son”** – help him mow the lawn

D) We Show up w/ **our talents** – Play guitar / Sing / Broom/ Chair/ - draw

Great I will take it

1) But also Problems / Fears/ Insecurities/ baggage -

E) God Brings : **Abounding grace / Unlimited Power / Awesome Wisdom - Incredible Strength / Unending peace –**

1) Everything that will ever be needed

THE RESULT:

A) The Sky is the limit- as long as we stay connected

B) How silly – your new restaurant – you need an oven – 10K – you only have \$2,000 – you start selling things – pawning – working another Job

1) Bill calls – what are you doing – 72.7 billion available

C) We do that with God

This Doesn't mean we live recklessly – but it does mean that we can live confidently –

A) More than conquerors through Him who loved us!

B) And so it doesn't matter what situation that we find ourselves in / what trial what difficulty / what obstacle

1) God is going to supply us with what is needed to accomplish the task

C) Doesn't **mean that life is going to be free of problems** – and it doesn't mean that God will not give us more than what we can handle.

1) He does that all the time – Jericho – Red sea – Cancer –

D) God constantly allows us to be in situations where we feel over our heads – But He supplies us with everything we need to make it thru

Philippians 4:19

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

C) Result is an AWESOME CONFIDENCE FOR LIVING !!!

2nd In Christ we are the recipients of Abundant Security

A) Isaiah 54:17 – *No weapon formed against you shall prosper*

B) Anything that comes into our lives has to pass thru the protective hand of our Father – Jn 10 *No one snatch us from Him / Rom 8 **Nothing separate us***

1) Weapons are formed against us – but they don't prosper – Because In Him we are Protected / we are secure

C) Paul put it this way: 2 Cor 4:8. *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed –*

D) His Grace is Sufficient

3rd In Christ we are recipients of ABUNDANT LIFE

John 10:10 *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

A) **Mephibosheth. – Lame Crippled – afraid living in fear / hiding out – All Changed one day – Because of who he was related to – Jonathan**

1) David and Jonathan's PACT – when throne Kind to my Heirs

B) **Mephibosheth becomes as one of David's sons – All the blessings of the Palace - Because He was in Jonathan - A part of Jonathan**

1) We become as God's Son –Joint heirs – because we are in Christ

C) **Recipients of Abundant life !!!– Not just surviving, barely making it from day to day, but a life filled with joy and peace and love.**

D) **An abundant life, speaks of a life filled w/ excitement & adventure.**

This is the life of faith – Not reckless – but Risk takers

A) **Step out – not play it safe**

B) **Adventure – Christian life is not meant to be boring –**

C) **Bored Christian – Probably not living by faith much at all.**

That is the Beauty of this life - It is filled with constant expectation of what is coming next.

A) **As I look back on almost 38 yrs. of walking w/ the Lord, & I realize I could not have chosen a more exciting life than the one God has given me.**

B) **Sometimes it is dangerous, sometimes it hurts, but it is filled with a sense of adventure.**

1) **That is what Jesus means by "the abundant life."**

C) **Allowed me to do more than I have every imagined**

In Christ we are the recipients of an incredible and glorious destiny {Living or Existing?

A) **Free – all expenses paid**

B) **Not Cheap – cost Jesus everything**

C) **Cross.**