

## BIRTHRIGHT FREEDOM

Becoming saved, with a claim of being "Born Again," is blessed assurance to a believer. IT IS A HUGE DEAL FOR SINFUL MAN - one that lifts man up out of sin, placing him under God's authority.

One wonders however, why so many saved and baptized church members allow so many things to get in the way of service to a holy God.

Service means CHURCH, a gathering together; for, that's the meaning of the Greek word, Ekklesia. It is defined as an ASSEMBLY. But, and get this, THE CALL always come from the One that has the authority to do the calling. Rome had its authority to call out its citizens and, the Heavenly Father has His calling of authority. You know, His Son, Jesus, who said, "**Follow me and I will make you fishers of men,**" Mt 4:19.

If we believe that Jesus has all authority, as He said in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, then we must hear His words and listen to what He said about His calling. "**If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed,** (Jn 8:36). Does anyone have more AUTHORITY than Jesus?

Further, Jesus instructed us how this "FOLLOWING" is going to work. "**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**" (Jn 8:31). That's what the LORD, Jesus stated; which had a tremendous impact on the heart of those who heard His words.

**"And they straightaway left their nets, and followed him,"** verse 20.

If there is ANYONE who can fulfill the LORD'S work, it's a New Testament Church member. John 17:8 confirms this: "**I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them.**"

But, if we are going to fish for the LORD, we have to leave worldly nets behind. We must get out of all nets that constrict us, holding us to the world; its ways and its work.

If we are to follow Jesus in a correct, free and spiritual way, the BIRTHRIGHT subject has to be learned. And, the BIRTHRIGHT has to be harmonized with other verses of the Bible. We must understand why it is imperative to be a saved, baptized church member.

Missionary Baptists know that there is a difference between being saved (from condemnation) from inheriting the kingdom. And, that difference is explained beautifully in the subject of the BIRTHRIGHT.

## SOME BIRTHRIGHT FACTS

### A GENERAL MEANING OF A BIRTHRIGHT

*A birthright is something that is owed since birth; as an inheritance.*

*An inheritance is the practice of passing on property, titles; as well as, debts and obligations, upon the death of an individual.*

In Theology, the death of Jesus paid THE PRICE for man's sin. However, we have to understand the other side of salvation, as well. While, man's carnal state was cleansed, the blessing of the inheritance comes because Jesus came out of the grave. He Arose!!!

We must have life to have any inheritance. God gives life, by faith. Yet, what if we **"gain the whole world and lose our souls?"** This passage and other Biblical references; such as, heir and inheritance, are not to be understood - not always, as having equal meaning for every saved person.

Certainly, anyone reading the Book knows that there will be positional differences in the resurrection (some receiving 10 cities; some 5, Lk 19:17). But, a serious problem arises when men take the heir (Jesus) out of inheritance.

In His place, they insert the works of man; which, among other false teachings includes: "Holding out till the end to be saved;" "Submitting to some ordinance; such as, baptism;" "Belonging to one particular church to be saved;" and, the infamous, "Speaking in tongues as evidence of being saved."

The heir is Jesus. The inheritance is to His followers; those walking by faith, according to Ephesians 2:8-9. Again, inheriting with Jesus is not the same as being saved from condemnation. Inheriting goes to those who freely serve.

## OLD TESTAMENT BIRTHRIGHT

The inheritance from the LORD was promised to Abraham and his seed (see Galatians 3:16). Therefore, any inheritance that came from God was to be from Abraham, by way of a natural birth. **"This (Eliezer) shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir,"** Gen 15:4.

The BIRTHRIGHT was by promise and, it had to be within the institution of marriage. As God would join with man by becoming flesh; so, man and woman join together to pro-create for the Lord.

Thus, Isaac was miraculously born by Abraham's wife, Sarah and the promised birthright was given to him.

What seems to be a sad account, to most readers of the Bible, is the story of Ishmael and his mother, Hagar. They were cast out and not counted within the birthright inheritance.

Clearly, every portion of the BIRTHRIGHT is by promise. Works are excluded and not counted within the inheritance. We think the account of Ishmael as not about being saved, but in terms of keeping the lineage pure and free from fleshly efforts.

Since salvation was to be by promise, it was necessary that the lineage NOT have so much as a tinge of fleshly color of works within it. From Abraham to Jesus, all births were "LINEAGE PURE" within Israel.

Gentile Ruth, and a few others, were brought within Israel to preserve an inheritance; as in Naomi's case, purchased by a near kinsman redeemer, Boaz. Of course, this is exactly what Jesus did for His Bride. He purchased the world for our benefit, being our near Kinsman Redeemer.

From Isaac, came forth twins. In this account, we are told the "how" and "why" of the FIRST BORN RIGHT of the birthright. Not only must a birth be from Abraham and his lineage, there is the special blessing of being the FIRST BORN SON, within the BIRTHRIGHT. A FIRSTBORN Son had the highest position within the BIRTHRIGHT; as well as responsibility and duties.

In the FIRSTBORN SON right, we are introduced to negative terms concerning the birthright. While, they are unpleasant to read, these accounts also have an "eye opening" effect to the facts of the BIRTHRIGHT.

First, it required that the one be born from the proper mother. Hagar was not that mother; which, resulted in a "casting out" of both mother and son. Yet, even with a proper mother; such as Sarah or Rebekah, the BIRTHRIGHT blessing had a higher position when one was a first born son.

But, Esau did not consider the firstborn position that important; that is, until it was too late. And, what we learn about Esau selling his position as the first born son, we see spiritual instruction concerning our salvation.

In the BIRTHRIGHT, a birth is necessary; which transforms us from death to life. When we die with Jesus, by believing in His sacrifice on our behalf, God forgives us of our sin and grants to us the resurrected life of His Son. Both occur simultaneously. But, the New Testament is full of negative warnings of losing the position of being included in the FIRSTBORN ONES - just like Esau.

Negative teachings are in the Bible; even - in our thinking, they go against what we would like to see and hear. Understanding them becomes vital to a full knowledge of the truth.

Jesus said, **"Not everyone that calls me Lord, Lord, shall inherit the kingdom."** That's the more familiar one, but Paul used many such negative words, too. Neither, Jesus nor Paul, were speaking of eternal safety from hell. Their words were directed to disciples and to churches. Let us take heed.

**Hebrews 11**, that faith chapter, has Sarah **"judging the promises of God faithful;"** believers **"confessing that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth;"** that **"they desired a better country, an heavenly one;"**

**BUT**, in chapter 12 comes the warnings. **"Follow peace...and holiness, without which no man shall see the LORD;"** Looking diligently, lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest there be any fornicator, or profane (God dishonoring) person, as Esau, who...sold his birthright" (see vs 12-17).

For sure, present day holiness people will refer to this text as teaching that a saved person can lose his salvation. But, Baptists harmonize. They look at **Heb 12:16** within all the Biblical passages of **"once saved always saved."**

Baptists judge God to be faithful, having saved us based upon Christ's offering; not our doing or, continual doing - even, undoing.

It is our prayer that everyone will follow the Lord in faith, freely. We must begin with the birth, but we cannot forget the teaching for those who are born of God. With the blessings of the inheritance comes duty and responsibility to **"Go into all the world, teach and baptize, and teach them (ourselves) to obey whatsoever I have commanded you,"** **Matthew 28:19-20.**

Then comes the best part; the fellowship of the FIRST BORN SON - just as God told Abraham, **"I am thy shield and exceeding great reward,"** **Gen 15:1;** so, Jesus

told His church, **"I am with you always, even to the end of the world,"** (age) Matthew 28:20.

A PROPER MOTHER means that God has given us place to live; a place where He may bless us through our birth. Sarah was used to provide the inheritance by birthing a child. Yet, in Galatians, the TWO COVENANTS represent Abraham's two wives. Interestingly, even those of Israel were not free, but under the Law; which, Hagar represented.

What we have to see are Paul's illuminating words in Galatians 3:26. **"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."** Here, in the presence of God, the Father and God, the Son, we are not governed by any Law; save the Law of the Holy Spirit.

Those, who freely walk in the Lord's teachings are **"the children of promise,"** Galatians 3:28.

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