

I. Introduction

A. Today...

1. Is not a church service
2. Is a gathering to let you know that a death has occurred and you are either a witness of the reading of the will or a beneficiary named by the deceased.

B. Eternal salvation and inheritance

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Romans 3:23-26

1. Old covenant = conditional vs New covenant = unconditional
2. Jesus' provision of eternal salvation results in an eternal inheritance for those who belong to Him - His children are the heirs to all that has been given to Him.

II. The Last Will and Testament...

A. Verse 15a - The Will

1. Executing a will is the technical term for signing a will and making it legal.
 - a. Sign the document while you have the capacity to know what you're doing.
 - b. Have two people sign as witnesses.
2. Covenant = an agreement but also and in this context means a last will and testament
3. This inheritance is to be executed for those who are called by God, those who have received forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

B. Verses 15b-17 - Jesus has died

1. Jesus death by crucifixion was established by eye witnesses both friendly and unfriendly.
2. Therefore, his will now goes into effect and has been executed

C. Verses 18-26 - Old Covenant transition to the New

1. How it was done (verses 18-22)
 - a. For about 1,400 years God willed that the death of Jesus would be foreshadowed and anticipated in the Old Covenant.
 - b. Shedding of blood in connection with the forgiveness of sins has always been essential.
 2. How it was designed to be fulfilled (verses 23-24)
 - a. Old Covenant contained only copies of the real thing.
 - b. All these copies point to Jesus!
 3. "Heavenly things purified"
 - a. Why would "heavenly things" need to be purified?
 - b. One common thought is that Satan has been there (and Job, going to and fro, appearing before God). Maybe, but not according to this text.
 - c. Christ appeared in the presence of God on our behalf. (verse 24)
 - 1) Christ purifies because we are there! We are what needs and will need to be purified
 - 2) Q: How can you go to Heaven without ruining it?
 - 3) A: "Enter you who are dirty and defiled, you who were deeply evil. Enter you who have soiled yourselves and who have been stained by others. Enter into My presence, Heaven. Jesus is there and He alone stands guard not to keep you out but to make you clean so you can be with Me forever."
 4. How this works (verses 25-26)
 - a. Jesus was the sacrifice (payment) and the High Priest.
 - b. Jesus died once and for all and in that moment secured eternal salvation, which resulted in the execution of our eternal inheritance!
- D. Verses 27-28 - The best news of all
1. Different from a human death and will; the author of the will, Jesus, is also the executor.
 - a. For our human experience, the deceased has appointed an executor who carries out the deceased's wishes.
 - b. Not so with our eternal inheritance because Jesus did not stay dead but He is risen and reigning!
- **Jesus Christ is the author of our eternal inheritance and He is the administrator of it as well! Jesus conquered death and He Himself guarantees what He promised us.
2. The risen Jesus no longer has to deal with the sin of His children but brings them into the presence and protection and perfection of God!

III. What does this mean?

A. The will is set and no changes can be made. Our inheritance is secure and absolute.

B. Why we're here today

1. Some are witnesses only.

2. Some are beneficiaries.

**Which do you want to be?

C. The reading of the Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ

[see document on next pages]

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

JESUS CHRIST

Dated: Before Creation

I, Jesus Christ, a resident of and domiciled in the universe that was created by me and for me and that my very presence holds together, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, revoking all wills and codicils at any time heretofore made by me.

I am married to the Church.

I have many children. They are all who received me and who have believed in my name.

FIRST: I have, with my last breath, paid all debts in full. There is no interest or penalties that pass on to my children. Furthermore, upon my death, the debts of all those who belong to me have been paid in full.

SECOND: This inheritance is now secured because of my death and is imperishable, unspoiled, unfading and reserved for every one of my children. I hereby give to them the Holy Spirit as a guarantor so that there can be no question to the validity of this inheritance.

THIRD: As co-heirs, I bequeath to my children now as follows:

- Eternal salvation that no one would snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- Forgiveness of sins and freedom from guilt and shame.
- Victory and freedom from the bondage of sin.
- Partakers in the divine nature of Christ.
- The righteousness of Christ in exchange for their dirty and soiled rags.
- Power and anointing in the Holy Spirit.
- Unconditional love unlike any love experienced ever before or ever after.
- Peace with God, no longer objects of wrath.
- Abundance of grace for every good work and for every suffering.
- Understanding of the mystery of God's will.
- Divine wisdom, guidance, and understanding through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Assurance that needs will be met.
- More than conquerors in all things.

FOURTH: As co-heirs, I bequeath now but they will experience later:

- A safe and beautiful city created expressly for them by my Father.
- A dwelling place to live out eternity prepared by me personally.
- No more death, mourning, crying, or pain.
- A new name that I have chosen for each one that only they and I will share.
- A new and glorified body.
- Jewels and crowns for each in proportion for what they have done.
- Fullness of joy and pleasure forevermore.
- Eternity in God's presence and in God's Kingdom not as servants but as children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Jesus Christ, sign my name (consisting of my shed blood and broken body) and publish and declare this instrument (consisting of the Bible) as my last will and testament.

WITNESSES: The foregoing instrument was signed, published and declared by Jesus Christ, to be his last will and testament in our presence, all being present at the same time, and we, at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses of the above written.

SIGNED: God the Father
God the Holy Spirit