

Christ: Our Portion Forever

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever asked God why certain people seem to be so blessed in this life? I am talking about unbelievers, people who seem to live very successfully apart from God. Some just seem to succeed in everything they do. They have fame and fortune and even good families. The world is theirs.

Therein lies the secret—the world is *theirs*. Their portion is totally involved with what is going on down here. One day, however, their portion in this world will be gone from them, either through death or through God's judgment. Moreover, with their portion will go everything into which they poured their lives.

A portion that will last forever, one that will stand through all that is to come, is a portion that must be *in* Christ. He and His Word alone will remain forever. The grass will wither, the flowers will fade, but what God declares shall be forever and ever.

This booklet will reveal that as Christians, we must recognize Christ as our portion, and Him alone. It is the only way we can be certain that what we do in our days on earth will last for eternity.

Chapter One

THE LORD MAINTAINS OUR CAPACITY

“Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:

“From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes” (Psalm 17:13-14).

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

Unless he is being motivated by Christ and led by His Spirit, a preacher could have a church of 25,000 yet have his portion in this life. It is not

wrong to have a big church. It is not wrong to be wealthy—get all you can and give all you can. Just be certain that Christ and His Word are motivating all you do. Some unusual, magnificent non-Christian marriages seem stronger than some Christian marriages. Nevertheless, it is all vanity when their portion is in this life instead of the Lord.

God does allow people to enjoy portions in this life. It is all a part of His logistical grace. To a certain extent, some criminals benefit here on earth from a measure of logistical grace. Their evil manipulations bring them some success and wealth. Some businessmen have become rich because of logistical grace, which allowed them to enjoy the fruit of smart marketing decisions.

Logistical grace is simply this: God allows the rain to fall on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:45).

Lost Portions, Lost Lives

Eventually, the source of a person's portion is revealed. And, if his portion is in this life, it becomes obvious when he starts to lose it. During the great stock market crash of 1929—an event that led to the Great Depression of the 1930s—the number of suicides was overwhelm-

ing. For those people, their portions were in this life, and without their portions, there was nothing for them to live for.

Christians can have worldly portions in this life. In fact, that is exactly where Satan wants them to live. His demonic forces stimulate lust patterns, trying to get believers to connect their free volition to their old sin nature and then to live outside of God's will and provision for their lives.

Foolish jesting is one thing that makes evident a portion that is rooted in this world and not in eternity. Humor is wonderful; I love a good laugh. And really, we all need to laugh just to remain healthy. But some people are suggestive with their humor. The god of this world, the god of worldly senses, promotes that kind of talk among Christians.

Another problem I notice in Christianity is the influence of driving spirits. People with this kind of spirit interrupt conversations and always try to get their words in. They lack a capacity to rest in quietness and serenity through abiding in Christ.

Kept in the Midst of Captivity

"Great peace have they which love thy law:

and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165).

The significance of our portion reveals itself when we face difficulties. Consider Ezra, who was carried into captivity to Babylon with the rest of the nation. He had to endure vicious treatment by the soldiers. He saw his father murdered. He witnessed the brutal treatment of his brothers, and he himself endured the brutality of the soldiers. Still, in Psalm 119:57, Ezra could say, "The LORD is the portion of my life."

There is great peace for those who love doctrine. Nothing offends them. The Hebrew word for "offend" means "wound." Nothing can wound those who love the Word of God.

Ezra could say every morning, "I love the Word of God. I hate the abuse. But I must shake it off. They have hurt my body, but they cannot touch my soul. My portion is not in this life; neither do I have friends whose portions are in this world. God has delivered me from that."

This is such a godly way to live.

"The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot" (Psalm 16:5).

It was quite a journey that Ezra and the captives of Israel had to endure. They were chained together and forced to walk for miles every day.

They were fed spoiled meat and moldy bread.

All the while, though, Ezra taught doctrine. As they walked, as they labored, as they ate, Ezra tried to provide a portion that the children of Israel could hold onto—a portion that would last even when they had no food to eat.

Chapter Two

WE ARE THE FULLNESS OF GOD AND HIS INHERITANCE

“For the LORD’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:9).

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

“Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that

which is to come:

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

“Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:17-23).

These are some of the greatest verses a Christian could consider. God created the angels. He created a chandelier of stars. He put the sun and the moon in the sky above. He made the beautiful mountains and the foliage. All of the beautiful valleys and streams and rivers and lakes are His.

Still, none of those things is as precious to Him as His people are.

“My people are My portion,” the Lord said in Deuteronomy. “*They* are My inheritance.”

The way Paul prayed for the Ephesians should come as no surprise. His desire for the disciples in the city of Ephesus was that they would gain a rich understanding and revelation of the knowledge of God. The apostle wanted their eyes to be opened so that they could enjoy the hope of their calling and God’s fullness.

We are God’s fullness. His inheritance is in us. We are the Lord’s portion. The God who has all power and all knowledge, the God who is

everywhere present, the God who redeemed us and justified us while we were ungodly, this God says to us, "You are My portion forever."

Worldly Ideas and Familiar Spirits

Worldly wisdom cannot be our means. Money cannot be our portion. Furthermore, we must understand that we cannot afford to be intimately involved with those who have their portion in this life. This includes churches that may be evangelical and yet are into the numbers game, the money game, and the personality game but who are not glorifying Christ.

For those people, Christ is not their portion. They are caught up in familiarity with the things of God.

Thousands of demons exist simply to promote familiar attitudes among believers. Worldly Christians become very weary for no apparent reason, as they are open to the influences of demonic spirits. Prayer and soul winning are not important to them. They seem to be hypnotized supernaturally by what this world has to offer. Therefore, they become passive.

The tremendous powers of hell line up organized efforts to make people passive, and their ultimate job is to get Christians to live outside of

God's will.

This can happen so easily when people forget that they are God's portion and His inheritance. When your heart understands that you are His, and His forever, it becomes a joy to follow Him and to live in His provisions for your life.

Chapter Three

A PORTION THAT STANDS THE TEST OF FIRE

“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

“Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

“My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever” (Psalm 73:24-26).

The key to Christianity is receiving and believing the Bible, the precious Book of God. It lives in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We know it has power because it kept young teenagers even while they were being abused on the way to Babylon.

Ezra became so filled with doctrine, he could pray, “God, quicken me according to Your Word. I have to overcome what the soldiers are doing so I can be ready to teach doctrine to my people this morning.”

It is so important to hear the precious Word of God. We cannot function in the operational will of God if we are not receiving the Word with all of its power toward us on a regular basis, esteeming it as more than our necessary food (Job 23:12). Without the substance of faith, I cannot discover the perfect will of God for my life. During these Last Days, I am in constant need of the reality of the love of Jesus Christ pouring into my soul from the pulpit.

“The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

“This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God” (Job 20:28-29).

Those who have their portion in this life will see those portions vanish. Their goods are gone. There is nothing left for them in eternity.

This fact became painfully obvious to a popular comedian and actor during the 1960s. He hired three men to research the Bible and disprove the existence of hell.

The comedian got cancer, and two weeks before he died, he was interviewed on nationwide TV.

The interviewer asked him, “Do you have

any fears?"

His answer: "I have this fear that there could be a hell."

This man's conscience was testifying to the reality of what is written in God's Word, despite his own disdain for godly authority. Now he was anxious over what would become of his portion. Within a short period, he died; and in eternity, we will find out whether this man got saved and understood the need to discover his portion in Christ.

As an unsaved but moral person, I was given Christian tracts to read about hell. Though I had been taught that there was no hell, something in me said otherwise. I started to believe that if there is a heaven, there has to be a hell, and that is how I found Christ as Savior.

Christ Must Be Our Only Desire

We have to decide, dear friends, what our portion is. We must ask ourselves this: Is there anything on earth I desire but Christ? This is so crucial because we never know when we will die.

I do not want any of us to be ashamed when we stand before the Bema Seat. There Jesus Christ will determine the rewards we will re-

ceive for the way we practiced our faith in this life. I know I do not want my works to be reckoned as wood, hay, or stubble.

Wood refers to things done in the flesh of human effort and not in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hay speaks of things accomplished through emotionalism—this is where the driving spirit lives. Stubble is doctrine aborted, meaning that people hear it but they never receive it and transfer it into operation in their life. The fire of eternity will burn those things up in an instant. They will count as nothing in eternity.

If, however, God counts my works as gold, silver, and precious stones, then I will receive rewards to enjoy forever and ever.

Gold represents the things done in a life that reflect the very nature of God. This Christian loves the same way God loves: through Christ (see John 15:12)—forbearing one another, forgiving one another, with Christ literally reflecting Himself through us as a vessel. Silver indicates the things redeemed in time because we exalted the Blood of the Cross. Precious stones refer to what we did as faithful members of the local assembly. We purposed to function and operate in a way to make the Body of Christ special (see 1 Peter 2:5, Ephesians 2:19-22).

Lucifer himself was covered with precious stones—sardius, topaz, diamonds, beryl, jasper, onyx, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle. Physically and intellectually, he was a bright and shining angel. He had the covering of God's character until he desired to be as the most High. When he rebelled against God, he was stripped of all of these things because Christ was not his portion.

Finding Our Strength in Him

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

"Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

"They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God" (Psalm 84:5-7).

God does these things for us when He is our portion.

When he wrote Psalm 23, David, who had lost nearly everything that was dear to him, understood the preciousness of God's portion for him. His son Absalom had usurped the throne of Israel, and David was now hiding out in the Judean hills. Still, David could say, "Yahweh is shepherding me. I have lost everything by sight.

However, I still have my Source for life. Christ is my portion—I shall not want.”

CONCLUSION

We face unusual powers that want to influence us into finding our portion in this world's system. Thank God, we can know that He is the portion of our inheritance. He establishes our lot, our capacities, forever. As we present our bodies to Him, our minds are renewed in the freshness of forgiveness through His mercy. We are no longer conforming to this world; instead, we are transformed and renewed, proving what is good and acceptable. We prove the perfect will of God.

Do not fall into a nervous breakdown if you should lose your favorite job. That would indicate that the job was your portion.

Christ is our only portion.

As a ministry, we have a vision to reach 220 countries with the Gospel. This goal, however, is not our portion. It is a precious vision, a vision given by God. It will only happen through our obedience to His will. Our portion must be Him.

Christ must be our portion on earth.