

Pastors' and Theological Workers' School: Regent Baptist Church 1-22 May 1991
 New Creation Teaching Ministry: Rev. Deane Meatheringham

Trustees of The Inheritance

INTRODUCTION

In ministry of preaching and teaching has to do with enabling our people to know what their inheritance is, by grace, and to enable them to develop their inheritance and to bring them into the final inheritance.

God's Covenant People are His Heirs

- (1) Abraham believes the promise that he would be a great father who would inherit the land, and with the nations, the world (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-8; Rom. 4:13).
- (2) Israel, like Abraham, belonged to God by grace, and as God's son inherited the promises, which included redemption, the law, the promises and the land (Exod. 4:22-23; Josh. 15:1; Rom. 9:4f.).
- (3) What this means is that God has his covenant people as an inheritance and the covenant people have the Lord and all the earth as an inheritance.
- (4) The twelve apostles represent a true succession of the sons of Jacob who inherit the promises made to Abraham and Israel (Acts 1:26; Rev. 1:6; 21:11f.).
- (5) Christ is the true Son and the Heir (Ps. 1:2ff.; 110:ff.; Matt. 3:17; 11:25ff.; 21:39; Heb. 1:2).
- (6) In Christ's sonship all who are in him are joint heirs (Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:1-6; 3:29).

The Inheritance is Substantial

- (1) The references in the note above bring this out, but we need to emphasize that God's heirs inherit the earth and the future world (Matt. 5:5; Heb. 11:10, 16; 13:14; Rev. 5:4-10, 21-22). It is an 'eternal inheritance', the fruit of an eternal salvation (Heb. 9:12, 15).
- (2) In the present the sons of God have inherited salvation, the Spirit, the Gospel, the law, the worship and a great ancestry. So rich is this that at Pentecost people sold their inheritance (Acts 2:41-47).

Teachers of the Covenant Inheritance

- (1) Fathers/parents are responsible to teach the children of the covenant the nature of the inheritance and the responsibilities entailed (Gen. 22:1-19; Deut. 6:20-25; Eph. 6:1-4).

- (2) The teaching ministry of Jesus was really a reading of the covenant promises and obligations to Israel.
- (3) II Timothy 2:1-2; 1:3f. insist that the Pastor is trustee to pass on the tradition and the doctrine to others for safe keeping and transmission. The elder must have an aptitude to teach (I Tim. 3:2).
- (4) Teaching the Word is of a high order (Acts 13:1ff.; 20:28; Matt. 28:18ff.; II Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 1:5-16; 2:1; Eph. 4:11ff.; Gal. 6:6; I Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17).
- (5) What this means is that Pastors must be ministers of the Word of God. In serving the Word they will be relating to the covenant people of God their identity in Christ, the grace of their salvation, the privileges of developing the inheritance in Christ, the relationship of the inheritance to repenting sinners and the great hope our children and our children's children have in Christ.

'It is not the ministry that is the successor of the apostolate, the ministry plus the true apostolic legacy of the Bible-the ministry of the Word' (P. T. Forsyth).

God's covenant people have a marvellous inheritance. We are trustees of the inheritance.