1 - **The Christian’s Birthright**

Hebrews 12:14-17

2 - **What Is The Birthright?**

* Privileges entitled to by birth – a perpetual or ongoing blessing.
* W.E. Vine describes it as something which carries with it –
* **“Preeminence and authority”**
* **“A double portion”** of the **inheritance**… distributed at a later date.
* **The idea of an “inheritance” is the key point of a birthright.**

3 - **What Is The Birthright?**

From a spiritual perspective, the “***birthright***” is about a spiritual inheritance and a eternal spiritual reward.

Can you see it? (Ephesians 1:18-19) Did Esau?

*“I pray that* ***the eyes of your heart*** *may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the* ***hope of His calling****, what are* ***the riches of the glory of His inheritance*** *in the saints, and what is the* ***surpassing greatness of His power*** *toward us who believe.”*

4 – **What Is Our Birthright?**

* The nature of our birthright is described by Peter in
1 Peter 1:3-5 as: ***“imperishable…undefiled…will not fade away…reserved in heaven…”***
* **A birthright to be shared with the Son of God**. (Romans 8:14-18, “…***fellow heirs with Christ***…”;
cf., Titus 3:7)
	+ It was prophesied that Jesus because of His victory over sin and death would ***“divide the spoil with the strong”*** (Isaiah 53:12; (ESV; ASV) cf., Hebrews 2:15)

5 - **What Is Our Birthright?**

* Our spiritual birthright or inheritance which is **challenged to be described in any language**.
* It’s glory is “***far beyond all comparison***”. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
* **Beyond comparing to the sufferings** in this present life. (Romans 8:18)
* Revelation chapters 21 & 22. (Note what isn’t there! Revelation 21:4)

6 – **Who Is Entitled To The Birthright?**

* In a physical sense… **legitimate children & heirs**.
* In a spiritual sense…
* Who has the **inherent right** to be part of God’s family?
	+ ONLY JESUS!
* Yet God desires that there be more children and that the birthright be shared. (Romans 8:15, 23, 29; 9:4)
* 7 - **How does one then become part of God’s family?**
* That process is called “***adoption***” in both the physical and spiritual sense.
* (Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17, 23)
* Is the process of adoption simply an exercise of our own will? (Galatians 3:26-29)

8 - **Who Is Entitled To The Birthright?**

* The adoption process is also described as being ***“born again”*** or a new birth. (John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 6:3-4)
* The need to defend against the error many espouse based on (John 1:12)

9 - **Who Is Entitled To The Birthright?**

* **Those who make their spiritual family their priority**.
(Matt. 10:34-39; 12:46-50; Eph. 2:19; Romans 12:10-13)
* **Those who obey** and **do His will according to God’s word** – (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; James 1:21-25; Acts 20:32)
* **Those who fulfill their responsibilities within this spiritual family**. (Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thess. 5:11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Timothy 2:21; Ephesians 4:12)
* Those who are **truly be His disciples**. (Mk. 10:17-21)

10 - **How Can We “Despise” Our Birthright?**

* **Two ways to forsake our birthright.**
* **1. Sin.** (1 Chronicles 5:1-2)
	+ We can forsake our birthright by unforgiven sin.

2. **Trade it** for something we deem of greater value. (Hebrews 12:16)

11 - **How Can We “Despise” Our Birthright?**

* **How did Esau despise his?**
* By trading an eternal blessing for a temporal pleasure. (Cf., Hebrews 11:25, “…***the passing pleasures of sin***…”; 2 Corinthians 4:16ff)
* We can do the same!
* Hindsight… (Hebrews 12:17)
* **We must choose**! (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 16:24-26; Hebrews 11:10)

12 - **How Can We “Despise” Our Birthright?**

Specific examples…

* **Materialism** & a love of this world – (Matthew19:16-22; 6:19-20, 24; Luke 15:11ff; 1 John 2:15; 2 Timothy 4:10)
* **Sexual immorality** – (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 19:9)
* **Popularity and the praise of men** – (Galatians 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3-4)
* **By quitting** – (Galatians 5:7; 2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 10:35-36)

13 - **The Christian’s Birthright**

* **We must continually make the choice.**
* Ruth 2:12, “***May the LORD reward your work****, and your wages be full from the LORD,* ***the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge***.”
* Col 2:18, “***Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize***…”