

YOUR ESCROW INHERITANCE

The English dictionary defines escrow as “a deed, a bond, money, or apiece of property held in trust by a third party to be turned over to the grantee only upon fulfillment of a condition.” (Webster Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, pg. 424)

R.B.Thieme used this term as a metaphor for a special doctrine regarding the Church Age Believer’s spiritual inheritance. He was a gifted bible teacher, having the special ability of associating Common Terms with Biblical Doctrines.

He explained “Escrow Inheritance” as: “every Church Age Believer becoming the recipient of his/her escrow inheritance, in time, on the basis of his/her spiritual birth (by the gospel of grace salvation) into the family of God.” (1 Pet.2:9-10; Gal.3:26-29)

When Paul was brought before King Agrippa for being a public nuisance for preaching the gospel of Christ, Paul gave Agrippa his conversion testimony. During this interrogation, Paul mentioned the escrow inheritance. Look for it in our lesson text.

We will study our lesson text by the following three homiletical points (Acts.26:9-18).

- Personal encounter with Christ (Acts.26:12-15)
- Persecutor of Christ (Acts.26:9-11)
- Preacher of Christ (Acts.26:16-18).

Did you find the escrow inheritance in the Preacher of Christ section (Acts.26:16-18)? “To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts.26:18)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the doctrine of the ESCROW INHERITANCE.

1. At the moment of salvation, Church Age Believer becomes a recipient or grantee of the escrow inheritance on the basis of God’s grace (Acts 26:18; Heb.1:14); Eph.2:8-9).

“And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” (Heb.9:15)

The unbeliever has no spiritual inheritance: “For this know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” (Eph.5:5-6)

Principle: Since the inheritance is eternal, so also is its recipient, the grantee.

2. The escrow inheritance can never be loss in time or eternity because it is based on the character of God and not the believer’s character. It is part of the irrevocable package of grace salvation (Rom.11:29)

“Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.” (Col.1:12)

“Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of his will.” (Eph.1:11)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”(1 Pet.1:3-4)

3. **The escrow inheritance is reserved in heaven in Christ for those who are in union with Christ.**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (Eph.1:3)

- The **grantor** is God, the Father.
- The **grantee** is every Church Age Believer who is in union with Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is given as the pledge of their escrow inheritance: “Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Eph.1:14)

All church age believers share in the escrow **inheritance equally** based on grace salvation (Rom.8:15-17).

4. **The escrow inheritance is part of the wealth of Christ that every church age believer shares in Christ.**

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor.8:9)

“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.” (Eph.1:18)

It is the Church Age Believer’s portfolio of invisible assets reserved in heaven in Christ (1 Pet.1:3-4). The Greek word for reserved is tereo (perf.p.ptc).

5. **The spiritually mature Believer draws from his/her escrow inheritance, in time to make spiritual investments. (Ph.II, the Christian Way of Life) (Matt.5:10).**

A formula to be used in understanding how to draw from your escrow inheritance in time, making spiritual investments in eternity is:

$$(KBD + FHS) + FC = DP$$

- KBD** [Knowledge of bible doctrine] (**plus**)
- FHS** [The filling ministry of The Holy Spirit] (**plus – applied to**)
- FC** [The Faith Cycle] (**equals**)
- DP** [Divine Production] in ‘time’ (Phase II) and in ‘eternity’ (Phase III).

This formula shows the Church Age Believer’s (the grantee’s) fulfillment of the conditions of the escrow inheritance. “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32)

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” (Matt.6:19-21) Divine Production / Spiritual Investments)

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, each (every) Church Age Believer will receive a final accounting – of how much he/she has drawn from, and invested in their “Escrow Inheritance”. (Rom.14:10-12; 2Cor.5:10; Eph.1:3; 1Cor.3:11-15).