

Refrigerator Notes 20 July 2014
'Have You Forfeited Your Inheritance'
Romans 8 12-25

1. It must be nice to be heirs to the Vanderbilt fortune, like most people we can all dream the 'what if'
2. With most ultra-wealthy families, with wealth comes responsibility, i.e. charities and foundations that families support
3. Our epistle lesson reminds us that we are children of God and heirs of God – we stand to inherit something from the ONE who made us all
4. With God's inheritance, there is no comparison that can be made by the rich because God surpasses all expectations we could ever have or dream
5. Being an heir to the Kingdom of God is no small responsibility either – being heirs mean being different than most folks, concerning ourselves with a whole set of different problems that don't correlate to earthly things, being heirs to God mean acting and talking in a different manner than the world, and it means living a different lifestyle and acting as if you are an heir to God's inheritance – it means resistance to sin
6. What Paul says about our new freedom when we become heirs "So then brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die. But if you live . . . according to the Spirit you will live (Gal.5 16-17)
7. However, resistance entails many defeats, discouragements and unanswered questions – but more than that – it entails considerable faith in what one cannot yet see, feel or experience – putting up with the constraints of human weaknesses
8. Paul tells us that we must crucify the old Adam that is within all of us which by the way could entail daily suffering or struggles
9. Here's the problem people – most, if not many, don't feel as if they are heirs, but we live like earthly orphans
10. However, when we are adopted by God, your background or status in life does not matter, one knows that they truly belong to God – they know that their flesh or life lived in the midst of the world and with all the temptations have fallen short of God's glory – yet by God's gracious act of adoption one embraces a new possibility and a new faith to continue to run the race
11. However, that which is tangible is far different from the intangible – we see wealth but it is difficult to see God's blessings and grace that will give us more than earthly wealth
12. Hence, most will give up their inheritance but unlike earthly inheritance once given up is lost forever, but not so with God's inheritance because He first loved us
13. So since you have been given spiritual adoption papers, why do you continue to behave as if orphans – why is it difficult to live in the ways of God – why choose to live in the way of the world
14. Often for many, or should I say sadly, the way of the world is trusted more than God's ways
15. I say 'I am redeemed', bought with a price – don't forfeit your inheritance over fool's gold (the world)!