

Titus 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Analysis

That being justified by his grace—ἵνα δικαιωθέντες τῇ ἐκείνου χάριτι (hina dikaiōthentes tē ekeinō chariti)—δικαιώ (dikaioō, justify/declare righteous) is forensic: God's legal verdict of "not guilty." τῇ χάριτι (tē chariti, by grace)—instrumental dative: grace is the means. Justification is by grace alone through faith alone (implied from context), not works (v. 5).

We should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (κληρονόμοι γενηθῶμεν κατ' ἐλπίδα ζωῆς αἰωνίου, klēronomoi genēthōmen kat elpida zōēs aiōniou)—κληρονόμος (klēronomos, heir) means we inherit what we didn't earn. κατ' ἐλπίδα (kat elpida, according to hope)—we possess legally but await experientially. ζωῆς αἰωνίου (zōēs aiōniou, of eternal life) echoes v. 2—what God promised before time, we inherit through justification.

Historical Context

Justification by grace through faith is Paul's central theological contribution, developed in Romans and Galatians, assumed here. The heir metaphor reflects Roman law: adopted sons received full inheritance rights equal to natural-born sons (Galatians 4:1-7, Romans 8:17). Christians are adopted heirs of God's kingdom.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Do you understand justification as God's legal declaration of your righteousness based on Christ's work, not progressive improvement?
2. How does being an heir of eternal life (possessing it legally though not yet experientially) affect your present suffering and patience?
3. In what ways do you functionally deny justification by grace, adding performance-based elements to your assurance?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	δικαιωθέντες	τῇ	ἐκείνου	χάριτι	κληρονόμοι
That	being justified by	G3588	his	grace	heirs
G2443	G1344		G1565	G5485	G2818
γενώμεθα	κατ'	ἐλπίδα	ζωῆς	αἰωνίου	
we should be made	according to	the hope	life	of eternal	
G1096	G2596	G1680	G2222	G166	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:17 (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 3:24 (Grace): Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

1 Corinthians 6:11 (Righteousness): And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 1:2 (Eternal Life): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Titus 2:11 (Grace): For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

James 2:5 (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Romans 11:6 (Grace): And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Galatians 2:16 (Righteousness): Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 3:28 (Righteousness): Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 4:16 (Grace): Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,