Heirs or Error: Lessons from Jesus’ Last Will & Testament

1. Intro
   1. Will you or have you already received an inheritance? Do you have a will? If not, do you need one?
   2. Analogy of preparing a will (covenant, testament, will) – use this to illustrate Biblical principles that are misunderstood
   3. We can partake in the most precious inheritance, or we can err. Col. 1:12
2. Drafting a will
   1. Generally testator can draft however s/he wants.
      1. Public policy exceptions (e.g., cannot marry, no illegal activity, pet gifts)
      2. Some conditions ok (e.g., graduate college and age 25)
   2. Jesus’ power: Mt. 9:6; Jn. 10:17-18.
   3. Conditions on our inheritance: Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10.
   4. Error – predestination; faith only; “Once saved, Always saved”
3. Revisions
   1. Only testator can change will; No changes after testator dies.
   2. New will invalidates any previous will.
   3. No other gospel: Gal. 1:6-9, 3:15-16.
   4. New covenant made the old obsolete: Heb. 8:13.
   5. Error – Keeping parts of Law of Moses, subsequent revelations.
4. Timeframe
   1. Takes effect upon death
   2. Must be death of testator: Heb. 9:16-17
   3. Inter vivos gift: Lk. 23:39-43.
   4. Error – Claiming ineligible inter vivos gift; Inheritance from another testator.
5. Executing will
   1. Executor – Carries out will of testator; close out estate.
   2. In terrorem clause or No Contest Clause – Forfeit any inheritance if contest.
   3. God is the executor: Rom. 14:10-12; Jn. 6:38.
   4. Cannot contest God’s will: Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19.
   5. Error – Using different executor; Contesting God’s will.
6. Our inheritance?
   1. By definition, an inheritance is not earned—it is a gift.
   2. Heaven – 1 Pet. 1:3-4 – Imperishable, undefiled, unfading, in heaven.
   3. Conditions – Mt. 7:21; Heb. 9:27-28
   4. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 – Unrighteous will not inherit.
   5. Inheritance for God’s children
      1. Jn. 1:12-13 – Right to become children of God (receive, believe, born of God).
      2. Gal. 3:26-29 – Faith, baptism, heirs.