**Inheritance**

**The world, or life, or death, or things present,**

**or things to come; all are yours.**

**(*1 Corinthians 3:22*)**

**The family of Johann Sebastian Bach had a corner on musical talent – 52 of them were said to be similarly gifted. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**More than 100 descendents of Johann Sebastian Bach have been cathedral organists. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 111)***

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**The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of his time each day. (O. A. Battista)**

**The inheritance boom: “U.S. households are poised to inherit $36 trillion over the next 30 years,” said Ben Steverman in Bloomberg.com. That’s an unprecedented amount, and “the pace of bequests is already surging.” The beneficiaries, though, are much older than they used to be: Since 1989, “the average age of recipients rose by a decade, to 51. More than a quarter of bequests now go to adults 61 or older.” That’s increasing the wealth gap between Baby Boomers and younger generations. Another factor in that disparity: The average inheritance in 2016, the latest year for which data is available, was $295,000. That’s up from $169,000 (in today’s dollars) 30 years ago. With the safety net of pensions disappearing, many middle-class Americans are spending “frugally” in their late years “to make sure their wealth lasts.” *(The Week magazine, December 13, 2019)***

**Heredity is nothing but stored environment. *(Luther Burbank, American agriculturist)***

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**A woman inherits the characteristics of her breasts as much from her father as from her mother. A man inherits the characteristics of his beard as much from his mother as from his father. It is strange. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**You get one-fourth of your characteristics from your mother, another quarter from your father and the rest from earlier ancestors. From each of your four grandparents you get a sixteenth. And so on. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. *(Chief Seattle, Native American leader)***

**Rare indeed is the woman who is colorblind. But all the sons of such a woman will be colorblind, too. Of that the scientists are certain. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Little seed ideas sown in consciousness and nurtured can change the world. Myrtle Fillmore sowed the idea that she was a child of God and could not inherit sickness. This idea grew and she was healed.  Later, just as the birds of the air were indirectly blessed by the tiny mustard seed, Myrtle’s personal healing blessed many other people through the development of the Unity movement. *(Christine M. T. Dustin, in U. S. R. S. newsletter)***

**Say not you know a man entirely till you have divided an inheritance with him. *(Johann Kaspar Lavater)***

**Let me tell you about a guy who dreamed he inherited a million dollars. He dreamed he went to take a shower that morning and the shower wouldn’t shower. He started to shave and the shaver wouldn’t shave. He went to get some coffee and the coffee wouldn’t perk, and the toaster wouldn’t toast. He went to get the newspaper, but the newspaper wasn’t there. He went to catch the bus and the bus didn’t come. He waited 45 minutes, and finally a guy came puffing down the street. “What’s going on here?” he asked, and the guy gasped, “Haven’t you heard? Everybody inherited a million dollars! Nobody’s working anymore!” Just then the man woke up. And he went and had a tremendous shower and a tremendous shave and a tremendous cup of coffee and a tremendous piece of toast. He read a tremendous newspaper and caught a tremendous bus to a tremendous job! What a difference it makes when we are learning to get excited about the work we have today! *(Charlie Jones, in Life is Tremendous)  
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**Frank asks the minister at church: "When you say the meek will inherit the earth, do you mean 'as is'?" *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, instead we borrow it from our Children. We are more than the sum of our knowledge, we are the products of our imagination. *(Ancient Indian proverb)***

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**The finest inheritance you can give to a child is to allow it to make its own way, completely on its own feet. *(Isadora Duncan, in My Life)***

**Life in the information age: The geek shall inherit the earth. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Purring and meowing, the friendly pet that rubs against your leg appears to be 100-percent cat. But scientists have discovered that in its genes your pet is also a little bit rat and a little bit baboon! Within its feline DNA, the genetic chemicals that spell out the blueprint for cat, researchers have found sequences of “foreign” genes, DNA that somehow “jumped” in from rats and baboons. Scientists have found many other examples of “jumping” genes. Pigs have inherited DNA sequences that came originally from rodents. Skunks in North America are born with DNA that came from the South American squirrel monkey. Trout carry genes somehow acquired from birds. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

**What you have inherited from your fathers, earn over again for yourselves, or it will not be yours. *(Goethe)***

**There's nothing like having grandchildren to restore your faith in heredity. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Something else you get from your parents, and they from theirs, is gray hair. Or no gray hair. Whichever. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Blessed are the young for they shall inherit the national debt. *(Herbert Hoover, former U.S. president)***

**Ancestry is most important to those who have done nothing themselves. *(Louis L'Amour, in The Walking Drum)***

**We didn’t inherit the land from our fathers. We are borrowing it from our children. *(Amish Belief)***

**Insanity is hereditary; you get it from your children*. (Sam Levenson)***

**Can you inherit a license plate number? Some drivers in Connecticut can. In fact, research reveals the lowest 10 numbers there – 1 through 10 – all were inherited from parents or grandparents. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Five years after the Terri Schiavo case caused a short-term spike in awareness of living wills, only about 20 to 30 percent of U.S. adults have legal directives telling caregivers and family members how far to go to keep them alive. Most people avoid spelling out their wishes because they'd rather not think about death, or are afraid a living will might enable relatives to remove feeding tubes and ventilators too soon. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***

**In the home my grandmother created, I find the beginnings of the love I have inherited. *(Lois Wyse, in Funny, You Don’t Look like a Grandmother)***

**A newly married man asked his wife, "Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?" "Honey," the woman replied sweetly, "I'd have married you no matter who left you a fortune." *(Jack Delf, in Come Laugh With Me)***

**The world hasn't yet been inherited by the meek, but it sure is being supported by a lot of them. *(Mary H. Waldrip, in Dawson County, Georgia, Advertiser and News)***

**Last Rights: After a woman buried her husband, she received a $20,000 inheritance he left for her. A friend asked what she was going to do with all that money. "All that money?" she said. "I had to pay $8,000 to the funeral home and $2,000 to the church. Then I paid $10,000 for a memorial stone." "That's a lot for a memorial stone," said her friend. "How big was it?" "Three carats." *(Marie Covington, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Now appears as though you inherit the tendency to get migraine headaches, but doctors still don’t know how that predisposition is passed down. *(L. M. Boyd)***

When a moth flies toward a light, it moves in a spiral flight pattern. The “why?” has to do with how its ancestors learned to navigate by pinpoints of light from the sky. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**You inherit “fast twitch” and “slow twitch” muscles. Fast-twitchers are good for table tennis, slow-twitchers for marathon running. How much of each you inherit has to lot to do with what sort of athlete you could be, says a sports physician. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A gift from the Neanderthals: We may owe parts of our immune system to our ancestors' trysts with Neanderthals. A new study shows that many modern humans inherited in significant share of one class of disease-defense genes from our extinct hominid relatives. "We didn't just replace" the Neanderthals, study author Peter Parham, a Stanford University microbiologist, tells the San Francisco Chronicle. "We have retained some of them in us." Scientists discovered last year that up to 4 percent of Eurasians' DNA descends from that of Neanderthals, but they weren't sure what those genes did. Now they've found that some of them are varieties of HLA, a diverse class of genes that help fight off invading viruses and bacterial infections. Europeans inherited more than 50 percent of one type of HLA from Neanderthals and another extinct hominid species, the Denisovans; among Asians the figure is 70 percent. Africans have no Neanderthal DNA, suggesting that only Homo sapiens who migrated out of Africa and into Europe and Asia mated with the species. The interbreeding likely helped the newcomers survive unfamiliar diseases they encountered in their new environments. Parham says the Neanderthals' genetic legacy has also increased Homo sapiens's long term "capacity to resist infection." *(The Week magazine, September 16, 2011)***

**Most Americans who become millionaires do so because their wealthy parents passed down their fortunes to them. A new survey found that more than half of investors with more than $25 million said inheritance was a significant factor in their wealth. (Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 16, 2016)**

**Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance. (Ruth E. Renkel, in National Enquirer)**

**Our doctor tells his patients: "Get plenty of exercise. Stay away from alcohol and cigarettes. And pray that you've picked the right ancestors!" (Walter H. Schmidt, in Catholic Digest)**

**Some people may inherit a predisposition to smoke cigarettes. Or so certain scientists now believe. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Misers are no fun to live with, but they make great ancestors. *(Tom Snyder, "The Late Late Show" CBS)***

**A child of two tall parents is more likely to be less tall than taller. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The heirs of Texas billionaire Dan Duncan, who died in March, paid no federal inheritance taxes on his $9 billion estate Had he died in 2009, his estate would have been taxed at a 45 percent rate. Had he lived until 2011, the tax would have hit 55 percent. As a result of Bush-era legislation, the estate tax was repealed for 2010. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 25, 2010)**

**The richest man in town died, and everybody was curious to know who would benefit. Agnes Thornberry, the town busybody, made a point of running into the lawyer who had handled business matters for the deceased. "Harry," she said bluntly, "you knew Mr. Chumley better than most of us. Tell me, how much money did he leave?" "All of it, Agnes," the attorney said without hesitation. "All of it." (The Rotarian)**

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**Inheriting the Obama economy: President Obama is handing his successor a remarkable gift,” an economy that’s the envy of the world,” said Ben White in Politico.com. The unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in November, “the lowest level since August 2007.” The stock market and U.S. home prices are at record highs, consumer spending and wages are both rising steadily, and the economy grew a better-than-expected 3.2 percent in the third quarter. The situation couldn’t be more different from the one Obama inherited when he moved into the White Housre in the depth of the financial crisis – or from Donald Trump’s campaign rhetoric about a U.S. economy suffering from high unemployment and stagnant growth. In fact, Trump will take office against the rosy backdrop of an “Obama boom.” *(The Week magazine, December 16, 2016)***

**Obama’s last jobs report: President-elect Donald Trump will inherit “an economy on a steady but unspectacular path,” said Eric Morath and Ben Leubsdorf in The Wall Street Journal. The economy added 156,000 jobs in December, lagging November’s “more robust gain.” However, the last full month of Barack Obama’s presidency marked the 75th straight month in which U.S. employers added jobs – a record. Wages also increased 2.9 percent from a year earlier, “the best annual rate since 2009.” But economists are still concerned about the economy’s 2.1 percent annual growth rate, the slowest of any expansion “since at least 1949.” (The Week magazine, January 20, 2017)**

**The successses Trump will inherit: “Donald Trump is moving back into the White House with an enviable hand to play,” said Peter Baker. At the time of his inauguration later this month, there will be no U.S. troops fighting in a war abroad, unemployment will be near a historic low, and illegal immigration has dropped to its lowest level since July 2020. Opioid deaths and murders are falling, the Covid pandemic was defeated, domestic energy production and the manufacturing sectors are expanding, and wages are rising. Yet under 19 percent of Americans are satisfied with the direction of the country. Relentless propaganda from Trump and a “fragmented, choose-your-own-news media and online ecosphere” successfully persuaded much of the country to adopt a “dystopian” view of America – “a nation ravaged by crisis, a desolate hellscape of crime, chaos, and economic hardship.” That negative narrative helped Trump win the election. But though he continues to say the country is “a total mess,” he will soon inherit the benefits of the Biden administration’s many accomplishments – and will be hard-pressed to avoid reversals. Every prsident faces a major crisis or two, and Trump is not likely to be an exception. (The Week magazine, January 17, 2025)**

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**The generous inherit the universe and as for me, I choose the universe. *(Thomas Clark)***

**There's nothing like a valedictorian in the family to reinforce your belief in heredity. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

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**There are 430,000 U.S. households with $10 million or more. In 1989 there were only 65,000 worth that much, adjusted for inflation. Back then, the nation's richest 1 percent inherited 23 percent of their wealth. In 2001, the top 1 percent inherited just 9 percent of their net worth. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 3, 2005)***

**Of the 64 entries for individuals and families worth more than a billion, Forbes lists only nine whose wealth is based on inheritance -- mainly the Rockefellers, Hunts, Paul Mellon, and G. P. Getty. Others had a leg up, but many started from scratch. *(Paul Craig Roberts, in Reader's Digest, August, 1995)***

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