

Text: Eph 1.13-14

Reviewing Ephesians 1

Key features of this chapter:

Three sentences in Greek

1-2: Greeting

3-14: Theme (Expanded)

15-23: Prayer

Second section divided into three parts

Marker: “to the praise of his glory,” v. 6, 12, 14

Focus of each section:

1. (3-6) God the Father
2. (7-12) Jesus Christ
3. (13-14) The Spirit

Verse 3 is a “header” verse – it sort of stands alone and could be thought of as the heading of each section.

Big theme: “blessing” — speaking well of, saying a good word about/to

The blessings in view are the Spiritual Blessings expanded on in each of the three sections.

The First Spiritual Blessing: We will be holy in the adoption, guaranteed! (4-6)

The Second Spiritual Blessing: We have a redemption from sin that is more than mere forgiveness, it includes an inheritance in and with Christ in eternity. (7=12)

Last week we didn't complete our study, so we will include the final two verses of the passage this week, before turning to:

Our title for tonight's study: **Sealed by the Spirit**

I. The rich gift of full redemption (7-8)

The lavish forgiveness of all our trespasses (individual sins).

II. The mysterious purpose of final redemption (9-10)

God's kind purpose in completing our redemption in the fullness of times.

III. The personal outworking of the redemptive purpose (11-12)

Left untranslated in the NAU is a little phrase, “in whom” at the beginning of v. 11. A couple of points to clear up.

Notice the word “we” in v. 11 and “we who were the first” in v. 12. Is there a difference between “we” in these verses and “you, us” in the other verses?

My view: not really, but some say this marks the Jewish believers as distinct from Gentile believers (Constable, Hoehner — both Dallas profs)

“Obtained an inheritance” is an interpretive translation of “called” — so more literally: “in whom also we were called, having been predestined...”

What is the object of this calling and predestining? (see v.12)

That we would be to the praise of his glory

Who is the person working “all things to the counsel of his will”?

God the Father

Taking all this into consideration, what does “first to hope in Christ” (12) refer to?

To believers before God brings all things to consummation, i.e. the order goes this way: we believed before he makes us fully “to the praise of his glory”

When the praise of his glory is complete, what will that mean for redemption?

Redemption is also complete

IV. Sealed by the Spirit (13-14)

The way this part is structured:

“In Him you also (emphatic)
having listened ...
and also having believed ...
were sealed ...”

What is the message of truth?

The message of salvation in Jesus Christ — an exclusive message

What is the relationship of “the gospel of your salvation” to “the message of truth”?

Restates the concept: the truth is also the good news

What steps did the saints take?

1. They listened to the gospel
2. They believed the gospel

What was the result of these steps?

The sealing

“In the ancient world a seal was often a glob of wax with the mark of an official signet ring to designate the authenticity of the document and the authority behind it (as in the seals of Revelation 5–6). With property it could be an inscribed stone or a precious jewel to indicate ownership, and slaves or followers of a patron deity often had a tattoo to indicate ownership and allegiance (as in the ‘mark’ of the saints in Revelation 7:4 and of the beast in Revelation 13:16–17). So the Holy Spirit is our ‘mark,’ showing that we belong to God, who has marked or sealed us as his treasured possession (see the commentary on 1:4, 11) and both watches over and protects us.”¹

The Holy Spirit, our seal, is literally “the Spirit of promise, the Holy one.”

What promise is meant?

Probably both OT promises (Ezek 36.26-27, Joel 2.28-30) and Christ’s promises (Luke 24.49; John 14.16; 15.26; 16.13; Acts 1.5)

In v. 14 the Spirit is called the “pledge” of our inheritance (KJV “earnest”).

What does this word mean?

Deposit or down payment

What does the pledge guarantee?

The final redemption (different aspect from v. 7)

And all...

to the praise of His glory!

¹ Grant R. Osborne, *Ephesians: Verse by Verse*, Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2017), 31.