

Ephesians 1:13-14 I am Sealed

Intro: Continuing our study here in Ephesians where we have been taking our time in going through the In Christ statements found in Chapters 1:1-14

A) Statements that ARE PROFOUND / DOCTRINAL / FOUNDATIONAL

B) Statements that give some incredible insight into our Position / our Resources / the blessings of Being IN CHRIST

1) Statements that reflect who we are to God & Who Christ is in US !!!

C) In our study last time we focused on V.7-12 How we are IN THE KNOW – AND WE ARE IN THE PLAN!

In Christ – God has made known to us the mystery of His will – how He is bringing everything in heaven and earth – together in Christ!

A) We are in the Know – the Mystery that was once hidden has been revealed to us – part of the NC

B) We are in the PLAN – We have an inheritance in Christ – part of that inheritance includes the role we get to play in His Kingdom

1) Both now and in the future – When Jesus returns

C) We ended our study last time by answering the question – what assurance do we have that this will be a reality for us?

D) Paul answers that question in V. 13-14 by telling us that God has given us a guarantee of our inheritance – the Seal of His Holy Spirit

E) Today we are going to discuss the significance of what it means to be sealed with the Holy Spirit!

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption

of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;

A) Let's not miss this: Becoming a Christian doesn't start by you doing something — it starts by hearing something.

B) What is it you hear? You hear a word, a message, you hear the Gospel — good news - You hear truth

C) “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

D) The truth is not an ideology or a philosophy the truth is a person. – Jesus is the truth!

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:6

A) That is an absolute statement – the way, the truth, the life – the only way to the father.

B) Jesus backed that up – after 3 days He rose from the dead!

C) Paul says – You heard the truth, you believed – you trusted –

1) Rested the weight of your salvation – your eternal destiny – on the person of Jesus

D) God responded to that by sealing you with the Holy Spirit

What does it mean to be sealed with the Spirit?

A) This idea of Sealing speaks to us – of at least 5 things –

B) Break down today – Insight for us – that In Christ we are Sealed w/ the Spirit !!!

#1 - Seal speaks of ownership - Goods on a Boat MARKED BY A SEAL

A) In 1st century commerce a *seal* was made by placing melted wax on a purchased possession

B)and then cutting an impression into the wax with a signet ring. The *seal* bore the identity of the owner!

C)The image in the wax was something tangible.

The Holy Spirit seals us or marks us, as those belonging to God!

A)Romans 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

B) Sometimes we go through times where you don't necessarily feel like you're a Christian.

1)We all go through that sort of thing.

C)But, at the same time, everyone who is a true believer, has experienced that stamp of God upon their life.

D)Holy Spirit in their hearts bearing witness - How does He do that ?

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

E)Abba = Intimacy

So the first thing that the seal of the Holy Spirit speaks of is ownership!

A)God has put His seal on us –

B)He has marked us - because He purchased us as His own - by blood of Jesus

#2 - Finished transaction: Even today when legal documents are processed they are stamped with a seal to signify completion

A) So too when you exercised faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross to save you & pay the price for your sins - You were sealed –

B) That seal of God upon your life / his spirit in your heart – signifying - Your Salvation is finished

1) Your salvation is complete there is no need to add to it!

C) There is nothing that you can do – **to make it better – more complete**

1) Your salvation is perfect – All that was needed for you to be saved was accomplished by Christ

D)Rembrandt or a Monet – Considered Masterpieces!

An original Rembrandt is worth \$34 Million dollars – Original Monet is worth \$45million dollars

A)If someone bought one – and decided they wanted to improve upon it

B)Their attempt to improve upon it in some way their attempt to add to it – would ruin it – worthless

C)Same thing is true of our Salvation – the work of salvation is complete

1)We try to add to it by our human effort – we ruin it

D)We think – I am going to read 10 chapters of Bible –

1)God is going to have favor on me – ruin the work of salvation

E)Or I am going to Witness every day – God loves me more – Worthless

Nothing we can do to improve upon the work of Christ – the seal of the Holy Spirit –

A)Finished – complete – perfect work

B)Now reading the Bible will improve your knowledge of God and it will enhance your intimacy with Him – but it doesn't affect your standing

C)**Finished – nothing you do can change that or affect that or improve upon that**

3rd - Seal speaks of authentic: a seal on a letter was like a signature or - personal letter head - King's seal - Authentic

A) Even today if you get an official document of any sort, a government document, it has the seal of our government on it.

B) That authenticates it as valid.

C)**If you have an American passport?** That is an official government document.

1) And it has the seal of the United States of America on it,

D) So what does that passport do? That authenticates you.

1) It confirms you as a citizen of this country.

Sometimes a seal is used in the context of art, or something that a person would create or make.

A) They put their seal or signature on it. Signifying this is authentic. This isn't a phony or a counterfeit

B) So too The Holy Spirit seals us or marks us, as those belonging to God by stamping us with the image of Jesus who purchased us.

C) The Mark of a believers authenticity is that as we grow in Christ we are bearing his image/

1) They could tell they had been with Jesus

So The Holy Spirit seals us or marks us, as those belonging to God by stamping us with the image of Jesus who purchased us.

A) This is so awesome!

B) The Holy Spirit sealing us and sanctifying us is the expression of His infinite delight and passion for the world to see Jesus in us!

C) He is at work in expressing Jesus, making Jesus visible and tangible, in the unique personality of every single believer.

1) On going process – Sanctification

Also interesting to You could NOT affix the seal to hardened wax.

A) It was only upon SOFT wax that the impression could be made.

B) Reminds us of the importance of keeping our hearts soft before the Lord – what keeps the heart soft?

1) The word – open to the word.

C) The more we get into the word and allow God's word to get into us – we are aiding the Holy Spirit – that work of Transformation

D) So the sealing of the Holy Spirit – mark of the authenticity of our faith –

1) that image of Jesus is being imprinted on us

E) If that is not apparent – you have to question – does that person really know the Lord –

1) Know them by their fruits

4th Seal speaks of security and protection -

A) When something was sealed it spoke of it being the personal property of a person or an organization and it wasn't to be tampered with

B) If the boat arrived in port and the seal on your package was broken the captain and his crew would be in trouble

C) Messenger for the Emperor was to deliver a letter – and the seal was broken – he could be executed.

The seal spoke of security and protection

A) God has put His seal upon us, and that seal of the Spirit of God has secured us as the people of God.

B) And guess what? Satan can't tamper with us. He can't undo what God has done.

C) He can't actually do anything that God doesn't allow Him to do.

1) And the one thing God will not allow Him to do, is undo what He has already done. .

John 10: "No one can snatch you out of my hand!"

In Eph Ch. 4:30 Paul also talks about this Sealing of the Holy Spirit – makes the statement that we have been sealed for the day of Redemption

A) The day of redemption is the day of collection.

Aa) It's the day when God takes me to be w/ Him - It's the entering into the glorified state.

B) Paul says that, "we are sealed for the day of redemption."

1) In other words, God is going to keep us secure until He gets us to the place where He takes us and He glorifies us.

C) God wants us to live with an assurance that *He that has begun a good work in us is going to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

D) What he's saying is, if Authentic believer - "You're going to make it.

1) God is going to get you to the desired destination, which is glory, which is heaven."

E) And so, that is also what he's talking about when he's talking about the fact that we are sealed. Security / Protection

1) You are going to make it !!!!

Now the 5th thing that is meant by this idea of being sealed with the Spirit is found here in v.14 –

A) Paul says that God has given Guarantee of our Inheritance

B) This same idea is presented for us in two other places in the NT

“He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God,²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”² 2 Corinthians 1:22

⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 5:5

B) The Seal of the Spirit given to us as a Guarantee speaks of 2 ideas

1) **Earnest money** - down payment or a promise note that I will pay -

2) I will deliver Spirit in us is our promise note

C) God the Father is saying to us who are His Children – Heaven & Glory are waiting –

1) Here is my Down Payment – Serious – Earnest money / Holy Spirit

But the spirit as a guarantee also speaks of an engagement ring!

A) When a young man is serious about a girl ready to pop the question he will break the bank to buy her an engagement ring!!!

B) Sell his surf board / sell his golf clubs / Brother & sister / what ever it takes to buy that ring

1) What He is communicating to her is I want you to spend the rest of your life w/ me

2) And just so you know that I am serious – Here is a ring!

C) So that ring to him is signifying the seriousness of His Promise

1) Well God's Spirit in our hearts signifies the seriousness of His Promise

But here is something else I want us to consider – To that girl that ring speaks of more than just the seriousness of a Promise

A) It signifies to the world that she is taken/ She belongs to someone else

B) And so the Holy Spirit in our hearts – signifies to the world – I am not available to you –

1) I belong to another

C) But that ring on the finger of that young lady is also constant reminder of what is coming – No longer ALONE

1) Reminder that she is soon going to change her name – new identity Mrs So & So

And it is a constant reminder that the discontentment she feels in her singleness is soon going to be Satisfied

A) Cold at night – warm body in that bed

B) Couple in the park – that is her / Married girlfriends – she will be able to relate

C) So too God's spirit in our hearts is a constant reminder concerning the Discontentment that we feel inside our hearts – about this place

1) God's spirit in our hearts reminds us constantly – we were made for another

Discontentment you feel is natural – it is built in – Longing for 2 things: More of God – Abba - & To go to Heaven

A) Realize that the Happier you will be – More you will see the things of this life from the right perspective { Temporal / fading / secondary

B) There is a new life awaiting me / new place – Heaven

C) The yearnings in my heart the discontentment I feel inside isn't because I want a new Job /

1) Car / better house / Spouse / - It is heaven / More of God

D) That is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts – pulling us toward intimacy with God

1) RESPOND TO THAT!

E) Reminding us – we exist for an ETERNAL PURPOSE!

LIVE LIKE THAT

BEING SEALED – SPEAKS OF

➤ **That Guarantee**

- **Ownership** – we belong to God
- **Finished Transaction** – our salvation is complete
- **Authenticity** – we bear the image of Jesus
- **Security and Protection** – what God promised He is going to come through on