

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sunday 4th February 2024

The Book of Ephesians – Where the rubber meets the road.

Ephesians 1:1-14 – Focus Verses 13-14

Title –

Reference made to a friend receiving a unique Christmas gift in the form of a seal.

- A seal that is used to stamp his books.
- Indicating they belong to him.
- The seal reads “From the library of Andy Spencer.”

Why does he have that seal? – Because he wants people to know that those books belong to him.

- This is significant because it is the truth we see in this week’s passage.

Ephesians 1:13-14 Christian Standard Bible

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

The work of the trinity in our salvation.

Each member of our triune God.

- Father – Son – Holy Spirit – actively involved in our salvation and the blessings.

What Paul is talking about is that we serve one God in three persons.

We see in Ephesians 1:1-14

- God the Father – blesses us with every spiritual blessing – chose us before the foundation of the world (to be holy and blameless) – predestined us to be adopted as sons and daughters, into His family.

Ephesians 1:1-14 Christian Standard Bible

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus^[a] at Ephesus.^[b]

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Rich Blessings

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.^[c] **5** He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8** that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.^[d] **9** He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ **10** as a plan for the right time^[e]—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11 In him we have also received an inheritance,^[f] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, **12** so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

13 In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. **14** The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Verse 7

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

- The son redeems us through His shed blood.
- Through Christ we have received our eternal inheritance.

Verses 13 and 14 – see that **God the Holy Spirit is our seal.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 Christian Standard Bible

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

- In the Holy Spirit we are sealed.
- Through the Holy Spirit we receive a seal, guarantee – a down payment.
- Embedded in this passage.
- Paul is addressing believers.

“when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.”

- Understanding that someone had to go and share the word of truth with them/with us – the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- They responded and said Yes. “I am a sinner before almighty God and I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me, and I want him to be my saviour and lord, and I want live for him all the days of my life, I want to spend eternity with Him.

When they put their faith and trust and trust in the lord Jesus Christ...

- They were immediately sealed with the Holy Spirit.

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

- The moment they believed the Holy Spirit came and indwelled them.
- Becoming their seal and guarantee.
- The same is available for us who have out our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

He was the promised Holy Spirit.

Question – have you ever thought about that – or does it just flow right on by us as we read this?

Last week we heard that God always keeps His promises – a faithful God – that what he says will happen.

- That nothing thwarts God's plans.

Question – have we ever given thought about the fact that the reason we have the Holy Spirit of God – indwelling us – sealing us – guaranteeing us – is that God promised he would come and do it!

Ezekiel 36 - talks about the promised Holy Spirit coming.

- Taking the heart of stone out of the believer and giving him a heart of flesh – redeeming him – regenerating him.

Joel 2:28 – talks about this.

[Joel 2:28 Christian Standard Bible](#)

God's Promise of His Spirit

²⁸ After this

I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity;
then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will have dreams,
and your young men will see visions.

The gospel of John Ch 14

- Jesus telling the disciples about the importance of why the Holy Spirit is to come.

[John 14:15-26 Christian Standard Bible](#)

Another Counselor Promised

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep^[a] my commands. – the hallmark of a born-again believer

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor^[b] to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be^[c] in you.

- Talking to the disciples before he was on the cross of calvary – before he was buried – before he rose again – before he ascended into heaven.
- These believers experienced the indwelling of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

- Saying the Holy Spirit of God is coming – I am saying this – I am promising this – you are going to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Starting at the end of chapter 15 into 16

John 15:26-27 Christian Standard Bible

The Counselor's Ministry

²⁶ “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father —the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

When the counsellor comes this is what we can expect

- The Holy Spirit of God constantly testifies – point us to Jesus Christ – glorifies Christ – draws people to Christ.

John 16:7-8 Christian Standard Bible

⁷ Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.

Question - Why?

⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:

How vitally important this is.

- A sinful world that is rebellious against Almighty God – this conviction from the Holy Spirit is necessary.
- Wanting to know about righteousness and judgement.
- That they then will put their faith and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Draw to the father through Jesus.

John 16:13 Christian Standard Bible

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.

Some of things that the Holy Spirit does are a part of our doctrinal statement and every other biblical church and mission.

These are things in our doctrinal statement about the Holy Spirit.

- No one can savingly confess apart from the Holy Spirit.
- He is the agent of the new birth.

When Jesus says – “You must be born again”?

- When we trust Jesus Christ as our saviour – we have a new nature.
- We become a new creation in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit is the agent of this.
- He baptises us into the body of Christ.
- He regenerates us.
- He seals us.
- He sanctifies us.
- He illuminates us.

What does this mean?

It means that when read the Holy Scriptures of God – he shows us what the scriptures are talking about – helps us understand the scriptures – to apply those scriptures to our lives – to get to know God better – more intimately.

Every time we open up the scriptures, we read about who God is and who we are.

- He guides us.
- He comforts us.
- He indwells us.
- He fills us.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We can read these things in passages like...

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

1 Corinthians 12:3

Hebrews 2:1-4, 9-14

This is the Holy Spirit that Jesus said would come and who has come.

Paul reminding believers that when they trusted Christ as their Lord and Saviour that they were sealed.

Question – What does that mean – that these believers were sealed with the Holy Spirit? – What does it mean for us?

Throughout scripture we see the concept of a seal.

Most commentary writers record the same thing – giving us a standard understanding.

A seal really carries with it 3 things.

#1 – A seal – not stamped – but attached.

The person who puts the seal – melts wax onto the document – pressing in their signet ring. Their ring – with their symbol – everyone knowing then who this document is from.

- It is used for showing genuine character of the document.
- Guaranteed to show the genuineness – authenticity of the document.

This can be seen in Esther 3:12

Esther 3:12 Christian Standard Bible

¹² The royal scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and the order was written exactly as Haman commanded. It was intended for the royal satraps, the governors of each of the provinces, and the officials of each ethnic group and written for each province in its own script and to each ethnic group in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the royal signet ring.

- Old Testament example.
- Haman sending a document out.
- Authenticity of, the guarantee of the character of the king himself.

As believers we would look at passages like Romans 8:16-17

Romans 8:16-17 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

- Making known to him – to us – that we are God's children.
The Holy Spirit of God – testifying with our spirit.
- Guarantee of genuineness – authenticity – that we are children of God.

Paul goes on – “We are coheirs with Christ.” The Holy Spirit testifies in our hearts to the authenticity of that.

- Think about the authenticity of that.

1 John 3:24 Christian Standard Bible

²⁴ The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit, he has given us.

- The way we know he remains in us – is in the spirit that is in us.

The spirit gives us that assurance.

Assurance grows deeper and deeper and deeper as believers in Christ as we keep God's commands.

If we as believers wrestle with our salvation it is because we are not living faithfully for the Lord.

- Not keeping His commands.
- Not following His ways.
- Not meditating on His word – regularly – day and night.
- Not letting the Holy Spirit of God instruct us – illuminate us – guide us by the word of God.

Because we are not saturating ourselves through time with God and through His word - we are not giving the Holy Spirit the occasion to constantly reassure us – “Yes you are a child of God.”

- Then we start to wonder.
- We start to doubt.

It doesn't need to be that way.

2 – A Seal marks ownership.

Jeremiah passage illustrates this.

- He was commanded by the word of the to buy a portion pf property.

Jeremiah 32:8-12 Christian Standard Bible

⁸“Then, as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to the guard's courtyard and urged me, ‘Please buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you own the

right of inheritance and redemption. Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. ⁹ So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out the silver to him—seventeen shekels^[a] of silver. ¹⁰ I recorded it on a scroll, sealed it, called in witnesses, and weighed out the silver on the scales. ¹¹ I took the purchase agreement—the sealed copy with its terms and conditions and the open copy— ¹² and gave the purchase agreement to Baruch son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah. I did this in the sight of my cousin^[b] Hanamel, the witnesses who had signed the purchase agreement, and all the Judeans sitting in the guard's courtyard.

Question – what is this saying?

Document seal by him as the owner and purchaser of that land – nobody could question it – it was witnessed – it was sealed – nobody could say this land doesn't belong to Jeremiah.

Question – What about us? – What does the bible say?

Jesus says...

John 10:14 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me,

- Talking about us as believers
- My own belong to Christ.
- We are not our own we were brought with a price – the price was Jesus own life.
- He shed his blood to purchase us.

Christian – Question – Do we believe and live like we belong to Him or that I belong to me?

- Are we struggling with what we want to do?

God is calling us to full obedience to Him.

2 Timothy 2:19 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: **The Lord knows those who are his,**^[a] and let everyone who calls on the name of^[b] the Lord turn away from wickedness.

All these verses overlap.

- We need to be turning away from wickedness and turning to Him.
- We are His property – He owns us.
- Gid has told us how to live.

3 – A Seal Protect from Tampering or Harm.

After Jesus was crucified – he died and was buried.

There is a concept that the disciples were going to steal His body away and claim that he was resurrected. They were wanting to guarantee that Jesus stayed in His tomb.

Are they really going to be able to stop the plans of an Almighty God?

- They set a seal on the stone and placed guards.
- Trying to secure the stone from tampering.
- They weren't thinking about God raising Jesus from the dead – they were thinking about stopping people getting access.

Revelation 5:1 Christian Standard Bible

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

5 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Nobody could open up that scroll – except for the one who was worthy to do it.

The seals were protecting that scroll from being tampered with – nobody could tamper with it – the only one that could open it up was the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we think about scripture passages – the book of Job comes to mind.

- Job was an Old Testament believer.
- He was God's child.
- God knew him and he knew God.

God says to Satan – have you ever considered my servant Job – he loves me – he follows me – he is upright.

Satan says – “yes but look at all the stuff you have done for him – now wonder he loves you – if you take that all away, he is going to curse you to your face.”

Question – What does God do?

God say... “You take these things away – take his property – take his family – but you can't hurt him – harm – touch him.”

Satan does this – What does Job do? – He continues to praise God – The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away blessed be the name of the Lord.

Satan comes back again and says... “yer but he still has his health – if you took that away he would curse you.”

God says... “You can inflict him, but you cannot take his life”.

He was never harm beyond what God had planned for a purpose – Why?

- God's seal was on Job.
- God's protection was on him.

This is why Paul can say in Romans 8:28...

Romans 8:28 Christian Standard Bible

²⁸ We know that all things work together^[a] for the good^[b] of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- Many of us have wrestled with this verse.
- The truth of it still stands.

We wrestle with this when things are not looking so good in our lives – dealing with this struggle and this struggle.

- We still have to go back to the word of God saying this.

²⁸ We know that all things work together^[a] for the good^[b] of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- God has set a seal on us.

This means that in His sovereign plan we are protected from harm – to whatever extent God determines that to be so.

- We should be able to take comfort and security from that.

- The Holy Spirit is Our Guarantee – our Down Payment.

Ephesians 1:14 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Vine says it this way – Quote.

The word for down payment originally means earnest money or deposited by the purchaser and forfeited if the purchase was not completed.

Guess what – God has never forfeited on the purchase.

- Our purchase is guaranteed – the Holy Spirit of God – God the Holy Spirit is our guarantee – there is no greater guarantee than God.
- So, when God says we are going to spend eternity with God in heaven – we can take that to the bank every single time.
- Because the Holy Spirit of is our deposit – who indwells us is our down payment – our deposit – our guarantee.

Vine – Quote.

In the New Testament it is only used of that that is assured to the believers.

Tony Merida – Quote.

God is not just telling us about something in the future, he is bringing the future into the presence, so that we may taste what the future is like.

A little more exposure to this phrase is seen in these two verses.

2 Corinthians 1:21 Christian Standard Bible

²¹ Now it is God who strengthens us together with you in Christ, and who has anointed us. ²² He has also put his seal on us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 Christian Standard Bible

Our Future after Death

⁵ For we know that if our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands. ² Indeed, we groan in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ since, when we are clothed,^[a] we will not be found naked. ⁴ Indeed, we groan while we are in this tent, burdened as we are, because we do not want to be unclothed but clothed, so that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.

What is being spoken about is a contrast between the mortal and versus the immortal – the temporal versus the eternal.

- Our earthly bodies as temporal bodies we have that are going to die.
- And then talking about our heavenly dwelling with God and our incorruptible bodies that we will one day have.

We do groan in these bodies – we feel age and injury – illness and sin – they all influence this body we have.

Some of thinking...

- Man, I wish I didn't have to deal with this body anymore.
- Man, I wish I didn't have to deal with sin anymore.
- Sickness or Death.

This is statement in this passage is talking about our eternal inheritance – our eternal destination with the Lord Jesus Christ – that the Holy Spirit has made a down payment for.

- [so that mortality may be swallowed up by life.](#)

Question - Have we thought about mortality right now not being life?

Reference – Pastor Barry saying at funerals...

“That believer in the Lord Jesus Christ when they die steps from the land of the dying into the land of the living.”

- This is what we get to look forward to.

Question - Do we actually think about that our eternal inheritance secured by the Holy Spirit is the land of the living?

- Or do we spend way more time thing that this is the land of the living?

Surround by people who think they are in the land of the living - but that they are actually in the land of the dying and unless they know Christ as Saviour when they die – they don't have the eternal inheritance that we have.

God desires us to share the gospel with those who have no hope, so that they have the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Question – Are we sharing the gospel with those in the land of the dying?