



Scripture: **Ephesians 1:11-14**

Date: **1-20-2019**

Last week we looked at how God enacts his plan of redemption "in Christ" in order to unite all things together. Christ is the center of God's redemptive plan as the one who accomplishes our redemption in the God/man Jesus Christ within history. Paul's focal point here is Christ's death and shed blood on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

So far we have primarily looked at the role of the Father and Son in our salvation. This week's passage focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit. What Ephesians 1:3-14 leads us to see is that all of God – as Father, Son, and Spirit – are at work in our salvation.

Ephesians 1:11-14: - Pastor Jeremy's Translation ... "JKV"

¹¹Because we are united with and in relationship to Christ^{a1} God made us His own personal inheritance. ^{b2} He did this by pre-selecting us in accordance with his eternal plan. God accomplishes his plan by deliberately and intentionally figuring out ^{c3} the way he wants things to go, then He causes everything to work together to achieve His desired end.^{d4} ¹²He did this so that we (the Jews), the ones who first hoped in the Messiah,^{e5} would be redeemed^{f6} to the praise of his glory. ¹³You (Gentiles) yourselves were also sealed in Christ by the promised Holy Spirit when upon your hearing the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, you believed in Him. ¹⁴The Holy Spirit is the down payment of OUR inheritance, indicating that the rest is sure to follow.^{g7} Our inheritance is God's full and complete^{h8} redemption of us, His possession, to the praise of his glory.

a¹ = theology of "In Him"

b² "*We were made a heritage*"...First aorist passive of κληρω,,” Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. ([Eph 1:11](#)). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

c³ boule

d⁴ thelma

e⁵ "Christ" – ie. the Anointed One Hope of the OT Jews...or. It is articular in the Greek.

f⁶ From the context...to make sense of "We would be..." We would be what? To the praise of his Glory...we would be redeemed, transformed, justified, sanctified, and glorified, to the praise of his glory.

g⁷ The function of an ἀρραβὼν

h⁸ Full and complete from context...v 10



Digging into the Passage:

- The believer's inheritance is mentioned twice in these verses:
 - What is it?
 - When do we get it?
 - Who mediates it?
 - Who promised the Holy Spirit to believers and when?⁹
- What does a seal signify [e.g. Cattle Branding, Priority Mail, A Contract, Milk Jug, etc]?ⁱ
- What then does it mean that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit?
- When does verse 13 say that the sealing of the Holy Spirit occurs? *When you* ___ + ___
- If that is the case, at what point in the Christian journey does the Holy Spirit enter our lives?
- What does it mean that the Holy Spirit "is the **guarantee** of our inheritance"?

Below is the summarized version of our Denomination's statement on: **The Holy Spirit**

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.¹⁰

Reflecting on the Passage:

- Though our presentation of the Gospel¹¹ message is typically described in terms of Christ's role in our salvation, discuss how the Gospel is Trinitarian¹² in nature. That is, how does the work of each person of the godhead¹³ relate to the good news?
- How would you succinctly explain this to someone you were witnessing too?
- How can we find comfort and joy in the triune nature of salvation?
- How does Paul's description of the Father and Son's role in our salvation keep us from trying to redeem ourselves and how is this central to the good news of the gospel?

⁹ Jn 14:16 – Note that this also reaches back into the Old Testament promises regarding the New Covenant .Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:27

ⁱ A Seal signifies ownership, security, a Finished Transaction, authority, and a stamp of approval.

¹⁰ <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/efca-statement-faith>

¹¹ "good news"

¹² Referring to the tri-unity in the one God as Father, Son, and Spirit.

¹³ Just another reference to the trinity.



Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit¹⁴

1. The Work of the Spirit = God's word 2 Timothy 3:16. Do I love His work? Do I love to read and meditate on it?
2. Am I quick to recognize and agree with God in confession when I have sinned?
3. Do I confess my sin by name?
4. Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
5. Do I repent and confess my sins to others in my family?

Psalm 139:23–24 (ESV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting!

Challenge for the week: read 2 verses per day of Ephesians 1:1-14 out loud as a family before a meal. (eg. Eph 1:1-2 – Sunday. Ephesians 1:3-4 – Monday etc.) Then Ask, "from this, is there anything someone wants to share about how you've seen God do this?" Finish by praying those verses back to God as a blessing for the food.

¹⁴ Adapted from Galaxie Software, [10,000 Sermon Illustrations](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2002).