

Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Ephesians 1:13-14

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

“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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

We have seen that the salvation we enjoy is all of God. It was His blood that redeemed us – providing forgiveness of sins, His grace that abounded to us; His desire to make known the salvation He provides, and His purpose to save. It was His good pleasure to save us, to provide us an inheritance, and to gather us together with every believer from all the ages – into one happy family in Him!

We have also seen that God knows all things from *“before the foundation of the world,”* (Ephesians 1:4 NKJV). He said, *“For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.’”* (Isaiah 46:9b–10 NKJV)

We know that God does not trick Himself into not knowing, and therefore knows all who will trust Christ for salvation. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that God *“chose us in Him,”* (Ephesians 1:4 NKJV) *“predestined us to adoption,”* (Ephesians 1:5 NKJV) and declared that we would be *“holy and without blame before Him in love,”* (Ephesians 1:4 NKJV) from *“before the foundation of the world,”* (Ephesians 1:4 NKJV) *“according to the good pleasure of His will,”* (Ephesians 1:5 NKJV) and *“to the praise of the glory of His grace.”* (Ephesians 1:6 NKJV) Therefore, we also know that God, knowing all things from before the foundations of the world, and all about who we were, and are; all we would do, or will ever do; from the smallest to the greatest sin, nevertheless desired to save every person who comes to Him by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone.

Paul now points out our human response to this marvelous mercy and grace. We hear the gospel and believe the word of truth. We trust the Lord for salvation, and as a result are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. He said, *“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.”* (vs.13)

Up to this point all the emphasis was on the Lord; His love, His plan, His purpose, His work, His grace! How can we do anything but respond?

Many have suggested that God’s grace is irresistible. However, as we are well aware, many people do resist the gracious and merciful offer God has made to all men. Jesus said, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* (John 12:32) We know that God *“...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* 1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV) However, not all men will be saved; and for this reason *“...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what*

may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:18–20 (NKJV) Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that the forfeiture of salvation – freely offered to all men – lays the blame on man and not on the Lord! Even then, with all that considered, as a good friend of mine once said, “His grace is irresistible to me!” And to this I say a hearty amen!

The believer, having heard the “*word of truth*,” (vs. 13) and “*having believed*,” (vs. 13) is “*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*.” (vs. 13) This fact should bring peace and comfort to every believer. We are secure in Him and will be delivered safely home to Him in heaven – saved from the wrath to come.

The sealing of the Holy Spirit is like a padlock on our spiritual lives. A seal was used in early cultures (and in some cultures today) as a glue to hold closed a document or package intended for transfer. It was generally made of melted wax which contained the signet (a stamped impression) of the sender. The seal guaranteed that the entire document or package arrived safely and unopened – from sender to recipient. Only the recipient could break the seal. Because the Spirit has sealed us, we are assured of salvation.

In the Scriptures we also read that the Holy Spirit serves as a guarantee or pledge – similar to earnest money placed upon a purchase. “...*you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*” (vs.14) “*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 (NKJV) The Holy Spirit is given to the believer as a “down payment” on our heavenly inheritance – an inheritance Christ promised us, and secured for us at the cross.

As believers in whom the Holy Spirit resides, we are both sealed and guaranteed an eternal inheritance. He is, “*the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*” (vs. 14) This means that believers will, with absolute assurance, receive the inheritance purchased for them in Christ. This includes: everlasting life, complete deliverance from sin and all forms of disease and corruption, deliverance from the sinful propensities of the flesh. We will also inherit the blessing and privilege of ruling and reigning with Him. We will be with Him forever and will enjoy the glories of His Kingdom with all the saints in degrees we have yet to fully understand. It is an inheritance we simply cannot describe or comprehend. However, there is a day when we will know all the glories He has promised – and is intending to share. Remember that, “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*” Ephesians 1:7–12 (NKJV)

Some have suggested – or moreover contended – that a born-again Christian can lose or forfeit their salvation. However, the Bible is very clear on this. Here is a little lesson in logic, based upon the Scriptures that will help.

1) *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16 (NKJV)

We who trust Christ for Salvation will “not perish but have everlasting life.”

2) *“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”* John 10:28–29 (NKJV)

We who trust Christ for salvation “shall never perish.”

3) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”* Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

We who trust Christ for salvation receive the “gift” of eternal life. The “gift” is not earned and is therefore not contingent upon our “works.”

4) *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* Romans 11:29 (NKJV)

God does not change His mind about, retract, or make void, His gifts and calling.

5) *“...you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* Ephesians 4:30b (NKJV)

We who trust Christ for salvation are “sealed” and guaranteed safe delivery into His glorious Kingdom.

Therefore, we can with assurance say that, those whom God has called, and those who have trusted Him for salvation, are given the “gift” of eternal life, and will “never perish.” We who have trusted the Lord for Salvation receive “eternal life” as a gift – not by any human merit – and are “sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” God will never change His mind about the “gift” He has given us. It is “irrevocable.” The salvation we enjoy is by “grace” alone, through “faith” alone, in “Christ” alone.

We are eternally secure in Christ!

Questions

True or False: We hear the gospel and believe the word of truth. We trust the Lord for salvation, and as a result, are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

True or False: The forfeiture of salvation – freely offered to all men – lays the blame on man and not on the Lord!

True or False: The sealing of the Holy Spirit is like a padlock on our lives.

True or False: The Holy Spirit is given to the believer as a “down payment” on our heavenly inheritance – an inheritance Christ promised us, and secured for us at the cross.

True or False: Born-again Christians can lose or forfeit their salvation.

True or False: God will never change His mind about the “*gift*” He has given us. It is “*irrevocable.*”

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