

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 1:13-14]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your personal devotion with the Lord, what has the Lord revealed to you through His word this past week? If not, what is keeping you from the Lord?
- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read the opening 14 verses of Ephesians. What common themes are present in this first section?

Share what you see in your own words.

- Christ is a big deal.
- God's is serious about His will.
- God is serious about His glory
- The Holy Spirit is very active and even vital in this whole process.

2. Verse 11 displays God's sovereignty in our lives. Verse 13 displays our human responsibility in salvation. What evidence of this do you see in this text?

Verse 11 (God's sovereignty): "having been predestined"

Verse 13 (Human responsibility): "when you heard the word of truth....and believed in him"

3. Verse 13 talks about a promised Holy Spirit. When did these promises take place and where in the Bible are these promises fulfilled? Someone take us on a Bible tour OR let's use our brains and find them together.

John 14:15-31 (See Also: Prophecies - Ezekiel 36:27, Joel 2:28) / Acts 2 (Pentecost))

4. What comes to mind when you think about something that has a seal? Verse 13 describes the Holy Spirit's seal on our lives when we believe in Jesus. What do you think that means?

The translation gives us two fantastic options for the meanings of this "seal." It's either, "we have received an inheritance" or "we were made an inheritance." Oftentimes, when we think of a seal,

it is something that is marked for ownership or something that has been made official. God gives us an internal seal, a seal on our hearts. We are His and we are official.

5. Paul ends these verses with, “to the praise of his glory.” He has used this phrase multiple times already. Why do you think he is repeating this phrase?

Everything God does is for His glory and everything he does for us should cause us to praise His name.

6. As you read this last verse, how do you feel about the foundation of your salvation? Do you feel weaker or stronger about it?

The Bible makes a strong argument for a salvation that is rock solid and non-wavering. This doctrine is called the **Assurance of Salvation** (if you would like to feel even better about it, see John 1:12-13, 1 John 5:11-13, Romans 8:16, Hebrews 10:22, Jude 24-25, etc.)

7. As we conclude this block of text (v. 3-13), there are three monumental things that God has accomplished for us, what are they?

God the Father has **chosen us**, God the Son has **redeemed us**, and God the Holy Spirit has **secured us**.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.