

**SERMON TITLE: SEALED**

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:13**

**INTRODUCTION.** The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus accomplished everything for those who believe. Before Christ, centuries of ceremonies and sacrifices were only a temporary covering for sin. The one sacrifice of Christ defeated the power of sin and completely. Today we focus on what it means that the work of Jesus “sealed until the day of redemption” those who believe.

**DISCUSSION.** Think of different things that modern Americans seal. What are some of the purposes of those acts of sealing?

**EXAMINATION.**

Consider some of the instances that seals are mentioned in Scripture, and identify the purposes of each.

- Genesis 38:15-26 (as a pledge of payment for sex)
- Esther 8:8
- Daniel 12:4
- Matthew 27:66
- John 6:27
- Romans 4:11
- 2 Timothy 2:19

There are several times that Scripture refers to believers as being sealed. One of those is Ephesians 1:13. Paul writes to the Christians living in Ephesus. The Ephesians worshipped nearly 50 gods and goddesses. Among all those deities, the apostle Paul has no problem declaring the good news about Jesus to be the truth. Among all the religions, Jesus is the path of salvation.

- What does it mean to be included in Christ? (consider Romans 8:1-11)
- What is the core of the gospel? In other words, what must be included for it to be the message of salvation?
- Ephesians 1:13 talks about hearing and believing. Read Romans 10:9-11 and discuss the importance of both of those actions in relation to the gospel.

- It is after believing that we are marked with a seal, which is the Holy Spirit. Continue on to Ephesians 1:14 and discuss what this sealing accomplishes in us.
- Consider these other Scriptures that tell us we are sealed by the Spirit: Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. What does each one contribute to your understanding of the subject?
- Read John 14:16-19 and discuss how the coming of the Holy Spirit relates to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

#### **APPLICATION.**

- How do we know if we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit?
- How would the purposes of sealing that you discovered in Genesis 38, Esther 8, etc., relate to the sealing of the Holy Spirit in us?
- Why is this sealing important? What difference does it/should it make in our daily lives?
- Does wrong behavior, improper speech, or sinful thoughts mean that we are not sealed and have not believed? Why or why not?
- Describe a time that you have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?