

**Eph 1:11–14 (ESV)** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>(12)</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>(13)</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>(14)</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

## 1. Results of a recent poll conducted by Harvard University – not good

- A. 67% of young Americans are fearful about the future
  - 1). They are worried about the economy and about political divides
- B. 79% of young Americans are concerned about the state of race relations
  - 1). The racial divides in our country are not getting better they are deepening
- C. According to an NBC poll 76% of all Americans are worried about war
  - 1). They believe the US will be in a major war within the next 4 years

**Point:** The future for many seems bleak right now

- A. BUT the believer has a different view when we think of the future
  - 1). We don't look at it with fear and trepidation – there is an excited anticipation
 

**Php 3:20 (NIV)** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 2). I see the signs that point to my Saviors return
    - a). This world is bad but this world is not my home – I'm a stranger and pilgrim here
      - 1a). The darker this world gets the more I long for home – more I feel like a foreigner

**Thought:** But how can I be eager about this? How do I know I will be with my Savior?  
Is this something I can't really be sure about? I can't really know until that day comes?

- A. That is what this passage is all about – it is meant to comfort those who are his
  - 1). It tells us that we have been given a future inheritance – v. 11-12  
It promises us that we will be with him to enjoy that inheritance v. 13-14

**Transition:** Let's begin with our inheritance – this is a continuation of the Son's work in our salvation

- A. We had the *Fathers* work of *election* – v. 3-6
- B. Then the *Son's* work of *redemption* and the blessings attached to that – v. 7-12
- C. We will end up with the *Spirit's* work of *glorification* – v. 13-14

## I. THE BELIEVERS INHERITANCE

**Eph 1:11–12 (ESV)** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>(12)</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

- A. In these verses we see the source of our inheritance
- B. We also see our inheritance from a divine perspective and a human perspective

### The Source of Our Inheritance: Jesus Christ

**Eph 1:11 (ESV)** *In him* we have obtained an inheritance...

## 1. God is gracious and bestows blessings upon all men

**Mt 5:45 (ESV)** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- A. You don't have to be a believer to enjoy some of God's blessings – common graces
  - 1). You enjoy the food that is raised because he is good to all
  - 2). You enjoy the rain that gives you the water you need to sustain life
- B. But the spiritual blessings of Ephesians 1 are for a very select audience = those who are "In Christ"

- 1). Those who have trusted Christ for the saving of their souls

**Transition:** Chapter 1 has listed many of these blessings – here we see the blessing of future inheritance

## Inheritance Defined

**Eph 1:11 (ESV)** In him we have *obtained an inheritance...*

### 1. What is this inheritance?

- A. It is all the things promised to us in salvation
  - 1). Heaven. God's presence. Eternal life. New glorified bodies

**Transition:** Scripture comforts us – assures the believer – they will enjoy this

### 2. We have obtained an inheritance = one compound word in the Greek

- A. Kleroo (klay-ro'-o) = speaks of something future that is absolutely certain  
Something so sure – it could not possibly fail
  - 1). So sure the Greeks often used this word to speak of something as if it has already occurred
    - a). That is what they do here – this future inheritance is already *obtained*
- B. This is common to use past tense in spiritual truths - Paul uses a similar Greek tense in chapter 2

**Eph 2:4–6 (ESV)** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>(5)</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>(6)</sup> *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

- 1). That hasn't happened yet – but it is so sure – God speaks of it in past tense

**Point:** So Paul says we *have* obtained this inheritance – even though it is speaking of a future blessing

**Transition:** Then Paul moves on to show us both God's side and man's side concerning this inheritance

- A. We will start with God's side and see three divine elements – the reasons we will enjoy this inheritance
  - 1). Divine predestination. Divine Power. Divine preeminence

## II. OUR INHERITANCE FROM THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE

### First: Our Inheritance Is Based on **Divine Predestination**

We've covered this so much will just quickly fly over this

#### 1. I will enjoy this inheritance because God by grace has predetermined I would

- A. This is one of the main themes of this chapter
  - 1). The believer is who they are and enjoy what they enjoy because they've been chosen by God  
**Eph 1:4 (ESV)** even as he *chose* us in him before the foundation of the world...  
**Eph 1:5 (ESV)** he *predestined* us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,  
**Eph 1:11 (ESV)** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been *predestined* according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,
- B. This is saturated in grace – God rescuing rebels who only deserve death and hell
  - 1). Saving them – adopting them into his family – giving them this incredible inheritance  
Then comforting them with promises that he will keep them until they are with him

### Second: Our Inheritance Is Accomplished by **Divine Power**

**Eph 1:11 (ESV)** In him we have obtained an inheritance, *having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

#### 1. I will enjoy this inheritance because God's plan is backed by God's power

- A. When he chose us by grace to be his children, citizens of heaven, joint heirs with his Son

- 1). His plan linked to his power - therefore that which he purposed would not be thwarted
 

**Why Paul can say: Php 1:6 (ESV)** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

  - a). What was the good work – context = salvation
  - b). Paul is confident that work will succeed because God’s power is involved
    - 1a). Notice – that plan takes us right up to the day of Jesus Christ - Glorification
    - 2a). That day when we enjoy this inheritance
- B. This is the only reason I can rest – He planned in eternity past that I would be his
  - 1). But unless that plan is backed by divine power that is able to draw the hostile rebel  
And give life to one who is dead in their sin
    - a). Then it doesn’t matter what God desired – his plan would fail
- C. But when God’s plan and God’s power unite nothing will be able to thwart it
  - 1). Listen to how Peter speaks of our inheritance
 

**1 Pe 1:3–4 (ESV)** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>(4)</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, *kept in heaven for you,*

    - a). Our inheritance is kept in heaven – guarded by God – nothing can take it away
    - b). But will I continue on to enjoy this inheritance – Peter says I will – next verse
 

**1 Pe 1:4–5 (ESV)** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>(5)</sup> *who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

      - 1a). God’s power is protecting your inheritance in glory – it will be waiting
      - 2a). God’s power is keeping you – so you’ll get to glory to enjoy that inheritance

**Transition:** Our inheritance is based on divine predestination – and accomplished by divine power

    - A. But why did God make these choices? Why did he save anybody?
    - B. There are a lot of reasons – John 3:16 tells us that he loves us - Paul brings up another angle here

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## Our Inheritance Is Designed for **Divine Preeminence**

**Eph 1:12 (ESV)** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ *might be to the praise of his glory.*

### 1. All of this is designed to bring God glory

- A. His power conquering our spiritual deadness – His love overturning our inbred hostility
  - 1). His grace bringing us into his family to provide and care for us – making us inheritors
- B. All this will bring him praise from the redeemed for all of eternity
  - 1). Like I said before – this is the kindling that should inflame your hearts for him
  - 2). Don’t let the temporal drown out what is really important – these truths

**Summary:** What have we seen about God’s perspective on this inheritance

- A. We have obtained this inheritance because he predestined us to obtain it
- B. This predetermined plan worked because God’s power was linked to it
- C. All of this should result in great praise for the one who has chosen such rebels to be his own
  - 1). To share in this incredible inheritance that he has waiting for us
    - a). Everything he has given to Christ is ours too

**Ro 8:17 (ESV)** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God *and fellow heirs with Christ...*

**Transition:** That’s our inheritance from God’s side – let’s look at this inheritance from man’s side

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## III. OUR INHERITANCE FROM THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

## 1. I see two things that must happen from man's side for a sinner to be saved

- A. For the lost to become a recipient of this great inheritance

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### The Sinner Must Hear Truth

**Eph 1:12–13 (ESV)** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>(13)</sup> In him you also, when you heard *the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...*

#### 1. The sinner must hear the Gospel – God's way of salvation through Christ

- A. But there are many messages being proclaimed called the Gospel that are not good news
- 1). So Paul emphasizes the Gospel they responded to was the *word of truth*
    - a). It lined up with scripture – it was God's true way of salvation

**Thought 1:** This is another reason it is so important to know our Bibles

- A. So we will tell the lost the truth – the genuine message that can save

**Thought:** This is why we should use scripture when we do evangelize

- A. It is the truth that saves – it must be there
- B. So sad how many people we talk to at the Spectrum from large churches around here
- 1). Been attending for years but have no idea how to be saved
  - 2). Could these Pastors be filling the church with the unsaved
    - a). Did talk to a youth pastor who had no idea of what the Gospel was

**Transition:** So the sinner must hear the truth – the Gospel – God's message on how the lost are saved

- A. But just hearing the truth is not enough – they must respond to the truth – next point

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### The Sinner Must Believe

**Eph 1:12–13 (ESV)** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>(13)</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, *and believed in him...*

#### 1. For man to be saved – a recipient of this inheritance – he must believe

- A. God must choose and man must believe – they are both in Scripture
- 1). We could say faith is man's side of God's elective purposes  
God's choice of man is by election – man's choice of God is by faith

#### 2. What is believing?

- A. It is not just a mental assent – I believe some guy named Jesus went to a cross – “Yeah I'm a Christian”
- 1). It is putting your “Hope” in Christ – trusting Him alone for your salvation – not your works
  - 2). It is receiving Christ as who he is - Lord – saving faith is bowing faith – following faith  
**Jn 10:27 (ESV)** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
    - a). Genuine faith is always following faith – it is bowing faith

- B. Peter said saving faith is two-fold - It turns from sin in repentance and turns to Christ by faith

**Transition:** Let's take care of a couple of misconceptions here

#### 3. Election doesn't remove man's responsibility to respond to God by faith

- A. “If I'm one of the elect I'll be saved eventually – doesn't matter what I do”
- B. Paul a huge fan of election also wrote that the sinner is responsible to believe

**Ro 10:9–10 (ESV)** ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and *believe* in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>(10)</sup> For with the heart one *believes* and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

#### 4. AND Election doesn't remove our responsibility to evangelize

- A. “The elect will be saved – whether I tell them or not”
- B. Paul continues in Romans – telling us personal evangelism is necessary in the salvation of lost man

**Ro 10:13–14 (ESV)** For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”<sup>(14)</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

1). Evangelism is a responsibility for the believer – to care about the lost – tell them how to be saved

**Balance:** So God chooses but man must believe

and God has determined that man will believe when others tell them

**Transition:** So you’re one who has heard the truth and have responded by trusting in Christ

A. Are you safe? Will you make it into heaven? Will your faith fail? Paul comforts us...

## IV. THE SECURITY OF THE SAINT

**Eph 1:13–14 (ESV)** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>(14)</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

### 1. God goes out of his way to tell his children how secure they are

A. He is not a father who wants us to be guessing if we are truly his – will be with him

1). You might make it – you might not – better toe the line buddy – you’re on probation - we’ll see

B. He says those who have responded to the truth of the gospel will make it

1). And he shows us how we can know – this is tremendous

## We Know We Are Secure Because We Are Sealed with The Holy Spirit

**Eph 1:13 (ESV)** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

### 1. How do I know I have the Spirit?

**Hint:** It’s not because you speak in tongues – that is NOT a Biblical proof

**1 Co 12:11 (ESV)** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**1 Co 12:30–31 (ESV)** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?<sup>(31)</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

A. It’s a rhetorical question – the answer is obviously NO – not everybody has the gift of tongues

**Question:** Then how can I tell?

A. Have you understood the Gospel? Saw your sinfulness and God’s only solution in Christ?

1). Have you responded to that? Have you confessed your sin and embraced Christ by faith?

B. Did you begin to sense that new relationship with God as Father that wasn’t there before?

1). That instinctive cry to him was placed into you “Abba Father”

C. Did you start to understand the Bible – it’s no longer a closed book like it was?

1). May be complicated issues you struggle with – but you’ve been given light - illumination

D. Do you see a change towards sin – do you have a desire to follow God? To live a holy life?

1). When you sin you’re convicted? You can’t be comfortable. You’re led to repent from that sin?

**Transition:** These are proofs that the Spirit is in you – if he is this passage should be extremely comforting

## The Spirit Was Given to You as A Seal of God’s Ownership

**Eph 1:13 (ESV)** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

### 1. In ancient days the seal was used to determine ownership

A. This was important in cities like Ephesus – which was a center of the lumber industry

1). They would float rafts made of logs from the Black Sea to the harbor at Ephesus

- 2). Representatives from different companies would bid for logs and pay for them
    - a). They'd cut a wedge in every log they purchased to identify it as their possession
    - b). That wedge was called "The seal"
  - 3). Eventually workers would come to collect the logs their company purchased
    - a). Out of the multitude of logs in the harbor they could recognize theirs by that "seal"
  - B. Paul says God has done that with us – He has marked us with a seal
    - 1). So out of multitude of people I'm around in this world – there is something different about me
      - a). There is a divine seal upon me that marks me as God's
    - 2). What is that seal? Paul tells us - It is the Holy Spirit living within me
- Transition:** As comforting as that is – Paul isn't through
- A. Not only is the Spirit a proof you are God's possession – you don't belong to the devil any longer
    - 1). But he is also a guarantee that you will be given something in the future

## The Spirit Was Given to You as A Guarantee of Our Inheritance

Eph 1:14 (ESV) who is the *guarantee of our inheritance...*

### 1. A couple ways this word guarantee (arrhabon) was used in the ancient world

#### The word was used to signify a "deposit or down payment"

- A. A partial payment in advance that secured a valid claim to the article
    - 1). Carri and I when first married bought everything on lay away – still have some of that furniture  
Went in and put a deposit down to guarantee we would be back to pick that item up
  - B. If you are a believer – at that moment you believed God placed into you His Holy Spirit  
**Ro 8:9 (ESV)** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- Point:** That was a deposit - a down payment to assure you he is not going to back out on your salvation
- A. He is going to come back to take you - his possession to himself
    - 1). And you are going to be with him for all of eternity to enjoy your inheritance – guaranteed!

**Transition:** There is another way this word was used that I love

#### The Word was used to signify an engagement ring

- A. There is going to be a wedding in heaven  
**Rev 19:6-7 (NIV)** Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! *For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*
  - B. There is going to be a wedding in heaven
    - 1). Who will be there? Those who said "Yes" to Christ – the Gospel was the proposal of marriage
    - 2). For those who say "Yes" the Spirit is given to them as an engagement ring
      - a). It is God's promise to us that we will be at that wedding celebration in heaven
      - b). That we WILL BE united to Christ for all of eternity - Guaranteed – We have the ring!  
"The Holy Spirit is the church's irrevocable pledge, her divine engagement ring, as it were, that, as Christ's bride, she will never be neglected or forsaken"
  - C. I guess the only question would be have you accepted his wedding proposal? Will you be there?
- Question:** How long is this guarantee good for? Now please listen for your own comfort and joy
- Eph 1:14 (ESV)** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it...
- A. The Spirit is given to you to guarantee you will receive your inheritance in glory

And this guarantee lasts until you receive that inheritance – until your safely with God

- 1). Do you see that God doesn't want you questioning if you're going to be with him!

**1 Jn 5:13 (ESV)** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, *that you may know that you have eternal life.*

- 2). He's given you this incredible down payment to assure you of your salvation
  - a). He's put an engagement ring on you so you know you'll be with him

## IV. THE GOAL OF OUR INHERITANCE

**Eph 1:14 (ESV)** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, *to the praise of his glory.*

### 1. Of course it is to his praise! What else could it be?

- A. He has left the palace to love the peasants who hated him  
Those who would rather have sin than him
  - 1). He has turned their hearts – He has adopted them into his family
  - 2). He has promised them an incredible future – beyond our wildest imagination
    - a). And given them a down payment to guarantee they will be a part of that future
- B. What he has done for you displays his grace – love – mercy - glory
  - 1). It will bring him praise for all of eternity – praise I pray has started now in your heart

## CONCLUSION

### 1. A section filled with God glorifying – Christ exalting – joy producing theology

- A. Here we see how incredible Christianity is in comparison to anything else
  - 1). Here every other religion is left behind as we see the brilliance of God's gracious plan

### 2. Are you an inheritor? Have you said "Yes" to Christ?

- A. Then this passage should give you great comfort
- B. If you're not – why not? What would stop you from embracing Christ as Lord and Savior right now?

**Transition:** We are going to try something new today – communion after the message

## COMMUNION

### 1. I was praying about how to flow from this study into communion

- A. It's easy – we have this incredible inheritance because of the work of Christ don't we
  - 1). That is a reason for celebration in our remembrance
- B. But we must go back to the passage before this one to see how this can come about  
**Eph 1:7 (ESV)** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
  - 1). For us to have the seal that marks us out as his purchased possession
    - a). First he had to purchase us out of the slave market of sin
    - b). Here we see the price of that purchase – His shed blood
      - 1a). This paid the price for our sin and earned our forgiveness with God
  - 2). This opened the door for everything else – our adoption as his children
    - a). Which made us inheritors of all he possesses! What a message! What a reality!

### 2. You hold in your hands two pointers to a reality that took place 2000 years ago

- A. The bread speaks of Christ body broken and bruised by sinful man for you
- B. The cup speaks of Christ's shed blood to pay the penalty for your sin

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- 1). We live because he died!