

THE SON ACTS – THE SPIRIT SEALS

Wednesday, April 10

Reading: Ephesians 1:7-14

Ephesians 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace* **8** *that He lavished on us...* **13** *When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,* **14** *who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.*

Paul now turns to the blessings provided by the Son, Jesus Christ (“the One He loves”). The Father is the Author of salvation. The Son puts it into action. The Father made the plan. The Son carried out the plan. All this was for “His good pleasure” and “to the praise of His glory.”

First, Paul reminds us that Christ REDEEMED us (1:7-8). ‘To redeem’ means to buy back. All people are born slaves to sin, but He has bought us with His blood shed on the cross. Second, Christ has MADE KNOWN GOD’S WILL to us (1:9-12). Paul will talk more about this ‘mystery’ in chapter 3. The final outcome will be for all things to be brought under the authority of Christ. This will happen in God’s timing and for God’s pleasure.

Next, we see the Holy Spirit’s role. The Father plans. The Son acts. The Spirit seals. Paul is speaking to both Jewish Christians (1:11-12) and Gentile Christians (‘you also’ 1:13). Both have received the Holy Spirit as God’s guarantee of their present salvation and are united in their future inheritance in heaven. A seal was placed on a letter or document to show ownership. It also proved that the letter was genuine. The Holy Spirit’s presence in the heart of believers proves they belong to God, shows that they are genuine, and provides the security of their salvation (see John 14:16-17).

LESSON ONE: “Redemption Through His Blood.” This is at the heart of the blessings of God. Without the cross of Christ we are lost and hopeless. Did you notice that God did not stop at the bare minimum to save us? The forgiveness and riches of God’s grace have been lavished on us! Have you taken time recently to just thank Christ for the cross? What are some ways you can lavish God’s love on others?

LESSON TWO: “Redemption.” There are three aspects of our redemption/salvation. This passage gives us the beginning and end of our redemption. First, we are redeemed when we accept Christ as Savior (1:7). We call this Justification. Thus, we can say, “I am redeemed!” Second, we are being redeemed everyday as the Spirit works in our hearts to conform us to the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). We call this process Sanctification. Thus, we can say, “I am being redeemed.” Third, the final work of God will make us perfectly holy when we reach heaven (1:14). We call this Glorification. Thus, we can say, “I will be redeemed.” Are you more like Jesus today than you were yesterday? Last week? Last month? Why or why not?

LESSON THREE: “The Promised Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is often the forgotten member of the Trinity. But His work in our lives is vital. Perhaps the reason we don’t talk as much about His work is that He always points people to Christ, not Himself (John 15:26). READ John 14-16 to get a bigger picture of the Spirit’s work in our lives.