SERIES ON EPHESIANS, PART 9

TITLE: "SEALED IN CHRIST"

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LOCATION: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SANTA CLARITA BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Introduction

II. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:3

> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

III. Main Idea – Christians are sealed in Christ to gain assurance needed to enjoy the fullness of Christ with courage and confidence until we inheritance all that God has promised.

IV. The Text (13-14)

A. The <u>conditions</u> of being sealed in Christ (13a)

i. Condition #1: <u>Hearing</u> the truth – *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation*

- We must listen with all our hearts

ii. Condition #2: <u>Believing</u> the truth – *having also believed*

- Listening and knowing is not enough, for we must also believe with all our hearts!

B. The <u>blessings</u> of being sealed in Christ (13b-14a)

i. The <u>nature</u> of your sealing – *you were sealed*

- We *were sealed* when we were saved
- In context, this seal signifies God's <u>di guarantee of our promised inheritance</u>

- A seal in Scripture can give 4 kinds of assurance, and all 4 apply to us spiritually:
  - Security (Daniel 6:17) – We are eternally secure in Christ
  - Authenticity (1 Kings 21:8) – We are eternally authentic members of God's Kingdom in Christ
  - Ownership (Jeremiah 32:10) – We eternally belong to God
  - Authority (Esther 3:10; 8:2, 8) – God's authority has been delegated to us to preach His message

ii. The sphere of your sealing – *in Him*

- Like all blessings, it is all about Christ

iii. The Agent of your sealing – *with the Holy Spirit of promise who is given as a pledge of our inheritance*

- *pledge* refers to earnest money (or down payment) to secure a purchase

C. The purpose being sealed in Christ (14b)

i. To belong to God forever – *with a view to the redemption of God's own possession*

- We were redeemed by Christ to be forever owned by God

ii. To worship God forever – *to the praise of His glory*

- As God's eternal possession, we are to praise Him forever!