

I) V13-14 INTRO: *In Him you also trusted* after you heard the word of truth the gospel of

II) Paul has been instructing the Ephesians concerning what they have in Jesus
They have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, and forgiven of their sins
They have obtained a heavenly inheritance and are to the praise of His glory

III) All of these incredible blessings is the result of their coming to faith in Jesus
They who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Jesus (2:13)

IV) This is how he begins this section, by saying *In Him you also trusted*
The Jews were recipients of God's saving grace, and you too have received such grace

V) We need to remember that the gentiles originally were not considered people of God
God called Israel to be His own special people, but He had not called the gentiles

VI) He did not intend to *ignore gentiles* but determined to include them in His plan
This was realized when the church was born, and resulted by faith in Jesus

Ro 9:25-26 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, *who were not* My people, And her beloved, *who was not* beloved." And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, '*You are not* My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

VII) We will see this more developed in ch 2 and 3

VIII) How did they come to be included in the blessings of God?
V13 They *trusted* in Jesus *after hearing the word of truth*

IX) SOMEONE ASKS: Is it important to share the gospel
Can't they enter heaven through living a good life and doing your best to obey God

X) Paul made it clear that that would not happen
You can't work your way into heaven
Gal 2:20-21 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of

God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

XI) Paul makes it clear that people need to trust in Jesus and need to hear the gospel

This is why people share this message: it is our great commission

Ro 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they *have not heard*? And how shall they hear *without a preacher*

I) These Gentiles had been saved because they heard the gospel and trusted in Jesus

Here, the gospel is referred to as *the word truth*

II) In various places, God’s word is spoken of as the word of truth

Ps 119:160 The entirety of Your *word is truth*, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever

2 Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles *the word of truth*

Jas 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the *word of truth*, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created

III) Here it is called the word of truth because it is the message of *reality*

It is something you can trust, and that in trusting results in an entirely new way of life

Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth

IV) V13 You heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; *in whom* also having

Truth

V) This word of truth is in fact, the gospel of your salvation

You heard the word as it revealed the God of salvation, and you trusted in it and Him

VI) You *believed* in the One revealed in the gospel and that’s how you were saved

It revealed to you that God sent Jesus to save you, and you believed
Ac 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

VII) V13 *In whom also having believed you were sealed* with the Holy Spirit of *promise*

When you believed the message and trusted Jesus, God sent you His

Holy Spirit

- VIII) This is the difference between having a religious faith and being born again
To have a religious faith does not require a person to be a believer
The religious faith may simply be a code of life built on religious principles
- IX) To be a Christian requires a person to be born again of the Spirit of God
To be a Christian is to become the temple of God's Spirit (1 Co 3:16)
Rom 8:9b If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ
- X) V13 He speaks of the Holy Spirit as the *Spirit of Promise*
He is called the Holy Spirit of Promise because God had promised to *send Him*
Is 44:3 I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon your children, and My blessing upon your offspring:
I) Joel 2:28 And *it shall come to pass* afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.
II) Jesus spoke of the promise of His Father
Lu 24:49 Behold, I send *the Promise of My Father* upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.
- III) This promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost
- IV) *One of the works* the Spirit of God performs is the work of *sealing* the believer
This refers to a practice of closing parcels being shipped using wax and a ring's imprint
- V) In ancient days, if I had a parcel to ship I would seal it with my signet ring, and send it
I would then go to the port and claim it by showing my ring's imprint as proof of ownership: After showing the imprint, I could then claim the parcel as my own
- VI) This is what Paul is referring to when he writes concerning being *sealed with the Spirit*
- VII) In Scripture, sealing has at least three connotations
FIRST: Sealing represents a *finished transaction* that reveals a

completed purchase

Jer 32:9-10 I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money--seventeen shekels of silver. And I signed the deed *and sealed it*, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales.

VIII) **SECOND: Sealing reveals *proof of ownership***

When Jesus died on the cross He purchased us, paying our debt in full, and He owns us

Jn 19:30 When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, It is *finished* (tetelestai) and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

2 Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity

IX) **THIRD: Sealing represents *security in Christ***

The package makes the journey and is claimed when it arrives at its destination

X) **This is what happens with the believer**

God has given His promise to us, and by faith we have believed and been saved

The result is that we have been sealed with the Spirit

XI) **V14 Who is *the guarantee* of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased**

I) **Guarantee: A pledge paid as a down payment guaranteeing that the rest would be paid**

II) ***The Spirit is the pledge* given to us by God to assure us of the glory of the *life to come***

Eph 4:30 grieve not the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the *day of redemption*

The Day of redemption refers to when God finally claims us as His Own

III) **While we are still on planet earth, redemption is not yet completed**

As we live our lives, we ultimately look forward to when we will be with Jesus

Ro 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, *the redemption of our bodies*.

IV) **The sealing of the Spirit marks us as belonging to God and is our guarantee**

The guarantee is what is called the arrabon: the engagement ring
It is God's promise (engagement ring) that He will always be ours and
we, His

V) *God Himself* seals us: we belong to Him (redemption), and we are secure in
Jesus

2 Co 1:21-22 Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and has
anointed us, *is God*; Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in
our hearts.

VI) V14 Once again Paul emphasizes that it is to the *praise of His glory* (V12)
This is what salvation is all about: *bringing praise and glory to God*

VII) The point Paul was making was: the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of coming
glory with God

The Spirit is the pledge given to assure believers of the glory of the life
to come

VIII) The Spirit is intended to awaken us to the fact that this promise is true and not
a dream

1 Jn 4:13 We know that we live in him and he in us because he has
given us of his Spirit

Ro 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's
children.

IX) V14 Paul concludes by saying to the praise of His glory

X) THREE FINAL THOUGHTS

FIRST: We are the purchased possession (like the ginger bread man)

1 Co 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

XI) SECOND: The work of Christ's Redemption will be concluded when we are
resurrected

Ro 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the
Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of
our bodies.

IV) THIRD: This work is intended to be to the praise of His glory

I) This is what salvation is all about: glorifying God

Ps 86:12 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will
glorify Your name forevermore.

1 Pe 2:9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a
people belonging to God (God's own possession), that you may declare the praises

of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.