

Passage: Ephesians 1:11-14

Title: The Seal

Summary: God Seals Us when we believe. Why does this passage of scripture matter to you today? Well quite simply, if a person continually struggles with what is their purpose and worth in life, and if they continually struggle with their eternal security, they will never be able to move on and live in the victorious Christian life that God purposes for them, and promises for them to have for the taking. And notice, I say for the taking, because although God purposes it and secures it for the Believer, the believer still must take it by their own freewill choosing.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it” . Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

****We have to know who we are in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 questions. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Today's Passage:

*Ephesians 1:11-14 (NKJV)*¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

3P's of the Passage (Title: Sealed with the Promise of Eternal Security)

Person

- His
- Predestined
- Sealed
- Purposed

Position

- In Him
- His

Promise

- Promised Inheritance
- Promised to be His
- Promised Eternal Security

Why it Matters to You

So why does this passage of scripture matter to you today? Well quite simply, if a person continually struggles with what is their purpose and worth in life, and if they continually struggle with their eternal security, they will never be able to move on and live in the victorious Christian life that God purposed for them, and promises for them to have for the taking. And notice, I say for the taking, because although God purposed it and secures it for the Believer, the believer still has to take it by their own freewill choosing.

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

***Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

***Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Promise within the Promise

There's a promise in the promise which I will say to anyone and ask of anybody, what victory is not yours to be had? What victory is not within reach to be taken? All of the promises of God are yes and amen and all the spiritual inheritance has been given to us, to have victories and to live victorious Christian lives.

3 Words for Will

Paul uses three words that have the idea of will. They are expressed. And all three of them are to amplify the one idea of being created for His will, and everything that He does is according to His will.

- Purpose (prothesis) - determination n. — the quality of being determined to do or achieve something.
- Counsel (boule) - thought-out plan n. — a series of steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished; especially as the result of intent consideration.
- Will (thelema) - inclination (attitude) n. — an attitude of mind especially one that favors one alternative over others.

Purposed Willed of God

So in verse 11 we read the purpose of Him, the counsel of His will. Purpose council, it is determined, it is orderly. It's not something that is random, but it's very purposed with a plan. Now, I want you to consider the theory of evolution and everything is based on randomness with a happen chance of order here and there, to which if everything is random with a few happen chances of order, *what self-worth can be had in random chance?* But now consider purposed order, divine order, predetermined and purposed ordered by God. All with the regard to you, that all of this said order, purposed order, predetermined order, is all part of the whole plan for you by God of the universe. Now consider this whole world around you purposed and ordered about mankind and now determine what is your worth. And we see this detailed universe all purposed and determined by God.

- We have the creation of the universe, the world, and the sun, the stars, and the moon, all purposed by God.
- We have the earth, the skies, and the seas, all purposed by God.
- We have the fish of the seas, the bird of the air and the animals of the fields, all purposed by God.
- But in this divine purpose and predetermined only you, man, does God get his hands dirty for. And He bends down and creates Adam who means man.
- And we read in the Psalms that we are fearfully and wonderfully created. You were designed for a purpose and with a purpose, and that is predetermined by the purpose of His will and for His good pleasure are you.

Psalm 139:13–16 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

His Ultimate Plan – Man's Salvation – To be His!

But as detailed as all of that is, there's the plan of salvation. And here is the summation, the ultimate purpose of salvation for the redemption of man who has been separated from God by his freewill to choose sin. And the purpose and the predetermined plan of God for you **is to be His**. The plan, to be His. The work of salvation, to be His. And the end of all, to be His. And what He is establishing for us is His plan has and never will change. The plan of salvation was determined purpose, it was not random.

And he makes it (the Gospel) available to every man.

Admit- you sin separates you from the holy God, because you are guilty of breaking His Holy Commandments:

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Believe – the only way for the forgiveness and cleansing from your guilt is through Jesus Christ crucified for you:

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Confess – make the confession before God that you receive Him as Lord and Savior, and that you turn from your sin and turn to follow Him:

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Based on this – Can You Trust His Will

Now.....based on this (that His ultimate purpose for you – is to be His), can you trust the counsel of His will for you? Whatever state, whatever place you're in, can you trust the counsel of His will? Can you bring yourself to a place of, "I trust you". And to bring yourself in the place to say, "Nevertheless, let your will be done".

The Purposed Christian Life

God is very detailed and determined, very purposeful in all He does, and thus we can apply the same to our lives personally. The Christian life will not just happen, it has to be purposed, it has to be determined. If I want to diet, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want to exercise, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want to get a college education, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. If I want a job, I have to purpose to do so, it won't just happen. Well so too it is so with our spiritual life. As I often say, if you aim at nothing, you will probably hit it. Beloved, a deep Christian life will not just happen by chance, you have to engage it with a purpose and determined.

So, I ask you, to ask yourself:

- What is my study plan?
- What is my prayer plan?
- What is my fasting plan?
- What is my family plan?
- What is my marriage?
- What is my ministry/serving plan?
- What is my worship plan?
- What is my plan to draw closer to God?

Now I am not advocating a schedule, but a purpose, a purpose and determined will to develop and go deeper in all these things. Although I am not advocating a schedule, you may need to schedule and plan them ensure and develop them. We are called to redeem the time, for there are many things that will attack our time, the time we use to purpose and develop our spiritual walk. I think it was AW Tozer who said, anything that keeps me from my bible is an enemy.

*Ephesians 5:15-17 (NKJV)*¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Mark 9:29 (NKJV)²⁹ So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NKJV)¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Ephesians 5:28 (NKJV)²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Matthew 25:37-40 (NKJV)³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?'³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Hebrews 2:11-12 (NKJV)¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

James 4:8 (NKJV)⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Break forth in Worthy Praise

Verse 12, the phrase, "Praise of His glory", occurs in relation to each member of the Trinity,

- God in verse 6,
- Christ in verse 12,

- and the Spirit in verse 14.

All of these promises should make us burst into praise when we think of the Trinity at work to fulfill the plan and determined purpose of God, and that is for us to be His and to know that we're secure in Him.

Ephesians 1:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:11–12 (NKJV)¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Jew First – Then Gentile

Paul is writing predominately to Gentiles in Ephesus (but Jews also). Verse 12, speaking of Jews, and then in verse 13, speaking of the Gentiles, and both of them receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

After you Heard – You Believed

Verse 13 says, "After you heard". God chose to speak and therefore after the person hears, that is when they choose. And, here again is the two rails that the train of salvation ride on, God's sovereignty and working, and man's freewill. But, as we know in the context of the whole counsel of God, it is the Holy Spirit who is doing the work in the person's heart.

John 16:8–11 (NKJV)⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Notice – Nothing Else But Jesus

Verse 13 - notice there's no water baptism. There's no Sabbath keeping. There's no Holy communion. None of these things are what brings salvation. It is the hearing, the believing, and the trusting in the finished work of the cross of Christ.

How Beautiful the Feet

And so, there's a power of Romans 10 of how beautiful the feet are of those who bring the gospel. God uses humans to bring His word to people, but it's the Holy Spirit that has to convince the person the need for a Savior because Roman 3 tells us, "There's none who understands".

Romans 10:14–17 (NKJV)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? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Arrabon – Engagement Ring

The Greek word translated "guarantee" refers to a purchaser's "earnest money." The Holy Spirit is God's downpayment - the foretaste of the joys of heaven. But the word, "arrabon," has another meaning. In Greek it's the word associated for an engagement ring. In ancient times it referred to the dowry or bridal price.

A dowry was a financial pledge given by a man to the family of his bride-to-be. It proved that his intentions to marry and support the daughter were genuine. This makes for a beautiful picture when applied to Jesus and

the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our engagement ring - He's our promise from Jesus - our assurance - that He intends return and take us as His bride!

Growing up in Western PA

It was a down payment. I remember when I was 18 years old, living in western Pennsylvania and I was selling my motorcycle before I was going off to school and this man came up and he looked at it and he says, "Boy, I love this bike. This is awesome. I definitely want to take it. I just need to take it for a test ride". And I said, "Sure, absolutely". I said, "But before you take it for a test ride, you're going to have to give me full price to hold this bike in case something happens to it when you take it away". which the guy said "No problem". And so he gave me this down payment, my down payment requirement was full price, because a down payment would do me no good if he stole the bike or wrecked the bike.

But he takes the bike for a ride. We lived on a dead-end road, which was, yeah, a couple of miles long, but it was dead end nonetheless. And he's gone. And his buddy who drove him there, me and him were standing, to which I turned and said to him, I go, "You know, this road isn't that long". And we both looked at each other and we kept waiting. And finally the guy comes back over the hill, and he's coming over the hill, I can see the whole left side of the motorcycle was damaged. The turn signals were broken and dangling, and the paint was scraped and the exhaust pipe was scraped, and he pulls up and he's got a big smile and he says, "I'll take it". And of course in my heart I was saying, "You sure will". And when I saw the bike, I had no worries at all what happened to the bike because I had a full down payment. And that can be same for you too. You might be beaten up a little bit, you might get scraped up a little bit, but the down payment is paid in full and you are sealed and you are His and you will be taken into his presence regardless of how beat up you may get in this life.

Purpose of the Seal

Verse 14, for purposes of being sealed in the culture at this time, was

- for security (Daniel 6:17, Matthew 27:62-66)
- for authenticity (1 Kings 21:6-16)
- for authority (Esther 8:8-12)
- for ownership (Jeremiah 32:10)

Daniel 6:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Matthew 27:62-66 (NKJV) ⁶² On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

1 Kings 21:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. ⁹ She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; ¹⁰ and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, You have blasphemed God and the king. Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

Esther 8:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he *tried* to lay his hand on the Jews. ⁸ You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

Jeremiah 32:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹ So 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. ¹⁰ And I signed the deed and sealed *it*, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. ¹¹ So I took the purchase deed, *both* that which was sealed *according to* the law and custom, and that which was open; ¹² and I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison.

Death if break the Seal

According to Roman law, if you broke the seal of the King, you were to be put to death.

Image of King/Owner

And the seal would be hot wax dripped on whatever that thing would be, and then the owner would have a ring that had an image, that was his image, and he would press it onto the wax and it would make that image and therefore it was the transferring and the impartation and the implanting of the image onto that thing, whatever it would may be, to show who's the ownership was and it came with the image and here we come with this Holy Spirit sealed for us. The image we are impressed with is the image of God Himself. We are image bearers of God. That's what we are.

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV) ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

You are Secure

God is making it extremely and very clear that he is saying, "You are secure. There is nothing that you can do that will make me disown you, make me separate from you." He's ensuring our security, our eternal security by saying to us, "It's a guarantee. I will not turn from you." You see, we can blow it and then we'll say to ourselves, "That's it. God doesn't love me." I said, "I love him and I follow him and I want to serve him and then I just went out and did this," or, "I can't believe that I did that. There's no way that he could ever love me," and God's saying, "Go look at the down payment. Go look at the promise. Go look at these words that are my guarantee to you that there is nothing that you can do that can separate you from my love." When I put that wedding ring on your finger, I meant it forever.

Seal Can't be Broken

This seal speaks that no one can open the seal except Jesus. We see that in Revelation 5. In Revelation 7 we see that this seal says no one can touch us, 144,000. Revelation 9 adds to that, that we can't be touched. And in Revelation 20, Christians can't be demon possessed because Satan can't break the seal when God puts the seal on him and throws him in the bottom less pit. He's not strong enough to break the seal, so the devil can't break the seal that's put upon you. You are secure in Him.

Revelation 5:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Revelation 7:2–4 (NKJV) ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

Revelation 9:4 (NKJV) ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 20:2–3 (NKJV) ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

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