



## Celebrating Our Salvation

*Ephesians 1:11-14*

Thus far, we have been sharing in a text of celebration with the Apostle Paul. In verses 1-3, he celebrates their blessing. In verses 3-6, he celebrates their election. In verses 7-10, he celebrates their redemption. We now come to the end of Paul's song of celebration. As Paul begins this new section, he again sounds the chord of election, as he had in verses 4-6 and again launches into its celebration:

*“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory” (vv. 11, 12).*

*“The doctrine has often appeared exceedingly pleasant, bright, and sweet. Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God.” - Jonathan Edwards*

**1. INCLUDED THROUGH THE \_\_\_\_\_ “IN CHRIST” (v. 13a)**

a. First, it indicates radical \_\_\_\_\_.

(2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 15:22, Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16, and  
Philippians 1:21)

b. Secondly, being in Christ brings a dynamic unity of \_\_\_\_\_.

(Ephesians 2:6, Galatians 3:28, John 17:11)

c. Thirdly, our being in Christ brings \_\_\_\_\_.

(John 6:35, John 7:37-39)

**2. WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE AMAZING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (vv. 13b, 14a)**

a. We are \_\_\_\_\_ with God's seal.

(Romans 8:16, 17, Ephesians 4:30)

b. We have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 2:9, 10, Ephesians 1:14b).



- c. We are God's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Malachi 3:17, Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 6:7; Deuteronomy 14:2; 26: 18;  
Isaiah 43:21, 1 Peter 2:9; Acts 20:28)

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Start It Out

Think about your blessings: which one would you like to celebrate this week? Why?

### Talk It Out

1. None of us are born into the family of God. Rather, in Christ, we are predestined and chosen. This means we are now heirs through faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit assures us of our inheritance. What is the inheritance?
2. Ephesians 1:11 says “you have obtained an inheritance” and later verse 14 says “until we acquire possession of it.” How is our inheritance in the past tense and also in the future tense? What do you think?
3. What does it mean to believe the Holy Spirit is our “guarantee?” The NIV translates verse 14 as, “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.” The Holy Spirit is a down payment of the promises of God. How does that make you feel? What does this make possible?
4. How does Ephesians 1:1-14 characterize God who adopted us? Our adoption and inheritance depends upon God’s will and purpose. God chose us in Christ. God is also the executor of His possessions and desire to richly bless us in Christ. How do people try to earn God’s adoption and/or an inheritance?
5. What does it mean to be “marked” by the Holy Spirit? What does this “mark” make possible for those who believe?

### Live It Out

Make a list of seven things you can celebrate this coming week. Commit to giving thanks and offering praise to God for each of them: one per day. Share your thanks with someone else each day as well.