

Every Spiritual Blessing Part 4 Ephesians 1:13-14

Introduction: Believers in Christ are more and more being marked out by our culture. Marked out as being unloving, racist, and ignorant among many others. Voices are crying out for our censorship, the infringement of our parental and constitutional rights and even in some cases our imprisonment. While such things are discouraging they should not be surprising. We are warned in Scripture that this has been and will continue to be the response of a world who is opposed to God and to His people. These circumstances are not reason for dismay or distraction for we have been also marked out by God in a way untouchable by any attack of this world. We have been sealed by the Spirit, Who has been given to us, an earnest of that which cannot be taken away!

I. The sealing of the Spirit

- A. Sealing defined-
- B. Sealing described
 - 1. Sealing is unmerited not merited
 - 2. Sealing is simultaneous not subsequent
 - 3. Sealing is passive not middle
 - 4. Sealing is internal not external
 - 5. Sealing is permanent not temporary
 - 6. Sealing is universal not selective
 - 7. Sealing is a promise not a condition
- C. Sealing applied
 - 1. Authentication
 - 2. Ownership
 - 3. Authority
 - 4. Security
 - 5. Responsibility

II. The earnest of the Spirit

- A. Earnest defined-
- B. Earnest described
 - 1. Earnest is non-refundable
 - 2. Earnest promises a future
 - 3. Earnest guarantees a destination
 - 4. Earnest is experiential
- C. Earnest applied
 - 1. Assurance
 - 2. Confidence
 - 3. Hope
 - 4. Purity

Conclusion: How would our daily lives and interactions with this world be different if we rested in these glorious truths and lived accordingly?

Questions for discussion/application

- How should these truths of the sealing and earnest of the Spirit impact our view of all the chaos and unrest that surrounds us in this world?
- How do these two truths impact our understanding of eternal security and the assurance of the believer?
- What hope do these truths give us?
- What would be the impact upon our lives if we consistently lived in light of these truths?
- What does verse 13 teach us regarding salvation? How does this relate to the teachings of lordship salvation?