"God is Worthy of our Praise"

Ephesians 1:7-14 *(Part 2)*
2-1-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***God is worthy of our praise (blessing) because of what He has done for us in Christ.**

What has God done for every Christian?

I. He BLESSED Us (v. 3)

II. He CHOSE Us (v. 4)

III. He ADOPTED Us (v. 5-6)

IV. He REDEEMED Us (v. 7)

V. He ENLIGHTENED Us (v. 8-9)

VI. He UNITED Us (v. 10)

VII. He INHERITED Us (v. 11-12)

VIII. He SEALED Us (v.13-14)

A. The sealing of the Spirit marks us as Christ's Property (v.13)

B. The sealing of the Spirit occurs at the moment of belief (v.13a)

C. The sealing of the Spirit is a work of God (v.13b)

D. The sealing of the Spirit guarantees the believer Eternal Life (v.14)

E. The sealing of the Spirit will result in God being praised (v.14b)

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- The sealing of the Spirit marks us as _____ (v.13)
- The sealing of the Spirit occurs at the _____v.13a)
- The sealing of the Spirit is a _____ (v.13b)
- The sealing of the Spirit <u>guarantees</u> the believer _____ _____(v.14)
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In the ancient Roman empire there were approximately 6 million people who were slaves of someone. When someone wanted to purchase or free a slave they would pay a ransom or the price of redemption. We too were slaves. Slave of sin and Satan. However, we have been redeemed (bought) by the shed blood of the Messiah.

"Redeemed" - Fanny Crosby's testimony about redemption (P. 15)

"Redemption" (apolutrosis) = to release or free someone by paying a price (this word emphasizes the freedom, actual deliverance, or liberty that is received - cp. Vine, p. 263).

Redemption is forever (Heb. 9:12 - "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

A. The Source of our Redemption - "In whom" = in Christ

"In whom" = in the beloved (v. 6) - in Christ (via our union with Christ, we have redemption)

"We have" - redemption is a present reality. We already have been redeemed.

B. The Means of our Redemption - "Through His blood"

"Through His blood" - by means of Christ's shed blood. The price of redemption was the blood of Jesus

I Pet. 1:18 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers"

Acts 20:28 - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Col. 1:14 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"

Heb. 9:12 - "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Rev. 5:9 - "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation"

"His blood" - refers to that one time act of Christ whereby He shed (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22) His literal, human blood (Heb. 2:14) on Calvary's cross (Col. 1:20).

C. The Meaning of our Redemption - "Forgiveness of sins"

"The forgiveness of sins" - this phrase is in apposition to the phrase "redemption through His blood." Redemption and forgiveness are conveying synonymous ideas.

("Redemption . . . [even] the forgiveness of sins")

"Forgiveness" = release, pardon, cancellation of an obligation, punishment, or guilt.

"Sins" (paraptoma) - to overstep a boundary, transgression

D. The Measure of our Redemption - "According to the riches of His grace"

"Riches" - God's grace imparts spiritual riches (EX: the high price to bail some people out of jail)

"Grace" - God's Riches At Christ's Expense

V. He ENLIGHTENED Us (v. 8-9)

"Wherein" - of which grace

"He hath abounded toward us" - God did not just parcel out grace; but He profusely poured out more than enough. The idea of the word "abound" = to give so much that it overflows; to have left=overs. We are extremely rich in grace.

God's amazing grace has provided for us spiritual wisdom and spiritual insight (prudence). Those whom God saves, He illuminates.

A. God's Mystery (v. 9a) - "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27)

The "wisdom and prudence" (insight) that we have is because of God, in His grace, opening our eyes to the secret mystery of His will. What is that mystery?

"Christ in you" (SEE: Col. 1:25 - 27)

B. God's Motive (v. 9b) - "His good pleasure"

God saved us and enlightened us for "his good pleasure."

VI. He UNITED Us (v. 10)

A. The Timing of our United Gathering - "Fullness of times"

"That" = so that, in order that

"The dispensation of the fullness of times" - God's end-time plan
*The Rapture and Resurrection

B. The Participants in our United Gathering - "All. . . in heaven and on earth"

"Gather together" - SEE: Col. 1:20-21

"In one all things in Christ" -

In one" = in one unity; there will be one flock and one shepherd

"All things" - all people (O.T. and N.T. saints; those who have died ("in Heaven") and those who are still living when he returns ("On earth")

VII. He INHERITED Us (v. 11-12)

"We have obtained an inheritance" - Two possible ideas:

--We have been made heirs ("Joint heirs" - Rom. 8)

--We have been made an inheritance

A. The Plan of our Inheritance (v. 11a) - "Predestinated"

"Predestinated" - our future inheritance has been determined before hand by God. It is guaranteed.

B. The Purpose of our Inheritance (v. 11b-12)

"Purpose" - plan, resolution, decision

1. God's will (v. 11b)

   No one plans for God; He plans for Himself.

   He sovereignly controls all things ("worketh all things") so that they happen according to the decision of His desire.

2. God's glory (v. 12)

   The goal of our salvation is to glorify God.

   To show off His glory

   To give credit where credit is due.

VIII. He SEALED Us (v.13-14)

The Holy Spirit has several ministries toward the believer:

1) He convicts us (Jn. 16:7-11)

2) He regenerates us (Jn. 3:3-7; Titus 3:5)

3) He baptizes us (Mk. 1:7, 8; I Cor. 12:13)

4) He intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26, 27)

5) He anoints us (I Jn. 2:20)
"Anoint" = He gives us an unction to discern error from truth.

6) He indwells us (Jn. 14:15-17; I Cor. 6:19)

7) He fills us (Eph. 5:18)

8) He produces fruit in us (Gal. 5:22-23)

9) He endows us with gifts (I Cor. 12:4-11)

10) He witnesses to us (Rom. 8:15-17)

11) He seals us (II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30)

A. The sealing of the Spirit marks us as Christ's Property (v.13)

"In whom" = "in Christ" (v. 12)

A seal served at least three purposes in Bible times. It marked:

1. Authenticity - It was a seal used on legal documents. EX: Today, a county clerk has his own seal, which certifies that the marriage license issued is valid.

EX: FBC seal

Our salvation is authentic.

2. Protection - A seal was used to make something secure (Mt. 27:66) or to keep something guarded or protected (Rev. 10:4).

"When seals were placed on deeds, titles, and other objects, they assured secrecy and protection against tampering or intrusion by unauthorized persons. . . The sealing with the Spirit is also an assurance to us that no one, not even the devil, can ever cancel out the redemption that God has provided for us in Christ" (DeHaan, p. 20)

3. Ownership - The seal marked something as one's property (Rev. 7:3-8)

It identified the owner. "In function, it was quite similar to the practice of branding cattle in the early days of the west" (DeHaan, The Holy Spirit: What He does for us, Radio Bible Class, p. 20)

We are God's special possession.

Satan, knowing how God marked His believers with the Holy Spirit,. will one day issue a counterfeit mark for the followers of Antichrist (Rev. 13).

B. The sealing of the Spirit occurs at the moment of belief (v.13a)

". . . ye believed (Aorist participle), ye were sealed (Aorist verb) ..." (v. 13)

The order:

1) Hearing the Gospel (Rom. 10:13ff)

2) Trusting the Gospel - Sealing with the Spirit

The Holy Spirit's ministry of baptizing and sealing occurs simultaneously.

C. The sealing of the Spirit is a work of God (v.13b)

1) "Ye were sealed" - (passive voice)

2) It is "God who hath also sealed us" (II Cor. 1:21, 22)

"The Holy Spirit of promise" - 2 possible ideas:

1. The promised Holy Spirit (NIV) (cp. Jn. 14:16; Acts 1:4, 2:33)

2. The Holy Spirit who promises eternal life (context)

D. The sealing of the Spirit guarantees the believer Eternal Life (v.14)

"A seal indicates possession and security. The presence of the Holy Spirit, the seal, is the believer's guarantee of the security of his salvation" (Ryrie, KJV Study Bible, p. 1673).

This sealing of the Spirit is referred to as "the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession..."

a. The word "earnest" (Gk. arrabon) refers to a downpayment, pledge, or guarantee deposit (cp. LXX - Gen. 38:17-20)

b. A Greek engagement ring is called an "arrabona"

c. The gift of the Holy Spirit, like an engagement ring, is Christ's guarantee that He will return and take His bride unto Himself.

1) The downpayment ("earnest") of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God (II Cor. 5:5)

2) The downpayment (seal of the Spirit) rests "in our hearts"

3) The downpayment will last until the end. The believer is "sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). This proves that the Christian will never lose his salvation! God will keep His promise of eternal life!

E. The sealing of the Spirit will result in God being praised (v.14b)

Thank You Lord For Saving My Soul,
Thank You Lord For Making Me Whole,
Thank You Lord For Giving To Me,
Thy Great Salvation So Rich And Free.

THE ART COLLECTOR'S SON

Author Unknown

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection.

Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.

The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction, as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home. As he opened the door, a soldier greeted him with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told every one of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art.

"I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this."

As the old man opened the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the solider, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace.

A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace,

pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in
the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction.
According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received his greatest gift.

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings.

Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim, "I have the greatest collection."

The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with $100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke.

From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son."

"Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?"

Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer.

After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room.

Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. And what about all of these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I
demand that you explain what's going on here!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son gets it all."

Just as those art collectors discovered on that Christmas Day, the message is still the same - the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others.

And because of that Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all!