

Title: Sealed By the Holy Spirit

Text: Ephesians 1:13-14

(eternal opening)
remarks
(tc)

Let us continue where we left off last Sunday morning. Take your Bibles and turn to Ephesians chapter 1. Ephesians 1 beginning with Vs 13, on the subject: SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Join with me for a moment of prayer

What a tremendous portion of scripture. These two verses have brought confidence and assurance to the hearts of countless believers. Men and women and boys and girls who have been saved by the grace of God. And then Satan comes along and puts doubts in their minds about their eternal security. I am thankful that God put these verses in his precious word. These verses are dealing with our security. The security of our salvation.

You see, the moment you confess your sin and receive into your heart, the Lord Jesus Christ. At that moment you are saved. And the Holy Spirit of God comes and dwells within you.

The Apostle John wrote that Jesus ask the Father to give to us the ~~the Holy Spirit~~ Spirit of truth. And we can know the Spirit because He abides in us.

Or, as Paul said to Timothy. "Guard the truth that has been entrusted to you because the Holy Spirit dwells within us." The Holy Spirit of God dwells in the life of each and every believer.

But, Satan comes along and gives us doubts about our salvation; and especial about our eternal destiny....And that is why we need to understand these verses. ~~God~~ This is the ^{3rd} ~~fourth~~ spiritual blessing. Vs 3 tells us that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings. We have been chosen ~~by God~~. ^{and} ~~We have~~ been adopted as son's of God. We have redemption through the plan and purpose of God. And now we come the promise of security through the Holy Spirit.

That is what this passage is saying. And ~~that~~ ^{this} promise is related to ^{of security} the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. } Now, there are two things that I want to point out to you. ^{about your security}

(10)

(1) One, ^{the security} ~~it~~ is based on the Word ^{of God} ~~that you~~ believe. It is not based on your experience. A lot of people don't have assurance ^{of salvation} ~~of what is coming~~ because they are trusting their own experience rather than ^{TRUSTING} the Word of God.

Jesus said in Vs 13 that it was the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, which you believed.

Now, ~~this~~ country of ours and our churches and ~~people~~ within our churches has been programed to believe ~~that~~ that the experience is what is real. And this existential philosophy has caused many in ~~this~~ ^{the} country to think that they are ~~born~~ born again because they have had some little emotional feeling towards Christ at some moment in their life.

~~Dear~~ Friends, you had better get that out off your head. Christianity is not subjective. It is objective. It is based ~~upon~~ upon historical facts that happened in history. You either believe them or you don't. The Bible says that if you don't believe the ~~facts~~ facts about Christ and ~~His~~ His Word, you are not saved. You say, "Wait amminute, Pastor, I felt something." That is great. But if you did not believe the facts of the Bible you are not a christian.... It is the message of ~~the~~ truth. It is the gospel that we must believe.

The reason why folks have doubts about ~~their~~ their salvation is because they ~~are~~ trusting their experience.

You ask ~~people~~ people, "How, do you know that you are a christian." Well, I had this experience a few years back.....

Are you kidding! I have long since ~~eg~~gnored the experience, and I have felled my mind with God's Word so that if some one whould ask me on a day when I don't feel saved, I can respond...YES! I ~~know~~ I know I am ^{and} WHY?.... Because I believe the ~~word~~ ^{word}. That is why...I don't have any doubt about it.

Do you want to get rid of those doubts in your life? Then, get the book into your head.

Now, as a christian, if you really know the Lord and you are doubting and questioning things, one reason why you may be doing that, is because

you are not getting into the Word. Let me show you ~~that~~ *what I mean.*

The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is the promise. He is in us. That is the security ~~what we are going to have a future redemption.~~ *secured*

Well! how does the Holy Spirit ~~do that?~~ *give us that security?*

Romans 8:16 says "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

How does He do that? Take your Bibles and turn to I John chapter 5. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit and mine that we are the children of God? I want assurance. Now, how do I get it?

I John chapter 5.....vs 5....I John 5:5...

Now, depending upon your translation there will be some difference in words. I am reading from the NAS. But, what ever you are reading the point that I will make will be the same.

Vs 5...^uAnd who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?^u This is the one who came by water and blood.

Vs 5 is talking about Jesus, the son of God. He came by water and blood. That is referring to the time Christ died on the cross. Out of his side came water and blood proving he died, It was a death, a rupture of the heart.

^u"This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; ~~Not~~ with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.^u And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the spirit is the truth."

Now, I ask you a question? WHERE AND WHEN DID THE HOLY SPIRIT BEAR WITNESS THAT JESUS HAD BLOOD AND ~~WATER~~ WATER COME OUT OF HIS SIDE?

This writer, John, is referring to his previous gospel. Will you turn back to the Gospel of John chapter 19. This is a very important text. I am not getting on a side track. It is very important to the whole ministry of the Holy Spirit. *It is the H.S. who gives* ~~bring you an~~ assurance that we really belong to God.

Some of you, if you get awholed of this today, will ^uset you free. It will change your confidence, your joy, your peace in God. If you understand this, you will have ^u*unbelievable* assurance.

John 19 verse 34....John is recording Christ's death. And Vs 34 says, ~~but one of the soldiers pierced His side~~

"but one of the soldiers pierced His ^{sides} ~~sides~~ with a spear, and immediately there came out what?....blood and water."

That is the only place in the gospels that it occurs. Now, I John 5 says "that it is the spirit who bore witness." How did ~~He~~ ^{He} do that? Through what John wrote in John 19....That is ~~very interesting~~ ^{how he bore witness}

Do you understand that the way the H^oly Spirit bears witness with your spirit? He doesn't do it in a vacuum. He does it through the word of God which He, Himself, is the author.

So, the more you get into the word, the more the H^oly Spirit will bring you the assurance that you are a child of God. ~~AN~~ ^{That you are saved.}

And unbelievers, you are not saved, you will be reading the Word and your heart will not be ministered to. You will not have that joy. You will not have that assurance.

But, if you are a believer. You will read things and you will say, "Praise God." Sometimes you will want to cry. Some times you will want to shout. But ~~most~~ ^{most} of the time it will be a quite peace in your heart and you will say, "that is it. I believe it."

The holy Spirit of God has promised to bear witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And He does that through the Word of God.....Praise the Lord....So, do you want to have a lot of doubts and questions? Then don't study the Word in your life.

But ^{if} you want to have assurance and confidence and peace in your heart in your relationship to God? Then get into the Word. The Holy Spirit is the author of ~~that~~ ^{The Word of God: He} ~~who indwells you~~, will bring that assurance in your life that you really belong to the Lord.....Tremendous...

OK Come back to Ephesians, again. Ephesians ^{chapter 1} chapter 1...^{our secrets} Redemption is based upon the Word that you believe. And you know that you are going to be redeemed, one day, when the Lord comes.

(2E) But this is also based upon the work of the Holy Spirit, himself. The Bible says in Vs 13 "that when we believe we are sealed ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ Him with the Holy Spirit of promise."....~~Something else is coming~~. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of ~~our salvation~~ ^{our salvation}

And Vs 14 says "who is given as a pledge". That is our English word, "down payment". "A down payment of our inheritance."

Now, let's put those two things together.

(1) First of all, the Holy Spirit seals you. ~~Now,~~ ^A the seal would tell you that this belongs to somebody. It is a mark of ownership. Because the Holy Spirit has been given to ~~me~~, I belong to the Lord. That is the mark of ownership.

^{alm} Now, a seal is also put on something in ancient times to mark it as being genuwine. Hay! that has the seal of Deasar or John Doe. That is really his....You see, I really know that I belong to the Lord, I am genuwine, because of the presaeence of the Holy Spirit in my life....

That is very important because Romans 8:9 says "if anyone does not have the Spirit of God, he does not belong to God."

So, I have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

(2) Now, he is also called a pledge, a down payment, of something that is coming. I like the modern Greek usage of this word. It is just wonderful. The word "arrhabon" (Ar'a'boae) in Greek is ~~arrhabon~~ the engagement ring. The earnest, the plege, the down payment is the engagement ring. In the days of Jesus ~~you~~ one did not break their engagement. They didn't break them like we break them tody. In fact in a Jewish ~~any~~ engagement it took a bill of divorce to break that engagement.

But the engagement ring is the promise of what is coming. And I love this as it relates to the christian. I am engaged to Jesus Christ. I have accepted him as my saviour. I am engaged; and ^{The} marriage is coming. There is going to be a marriage supper of the lamb...Priase the Lord... One day, soon I hope, the bride will be presented to the bridegroom.

Are you going to be there?.....Do you have your engagement ring on?

The presence of the Holy Spirit is your engagement ring that you are going to ~~be~~ ^{be} married to the Lord Jesus Christ and be with him forever.

(2) Let me share two more verses with you. ^{about} Our future redemption, ~~is~~ ^{and it is} going to happen ~~when~~ the Lord comes. Your soul has been redeemed. But I don't know if you know this or not. But your body hasn't. ^{This involves our future records}

Anybody have any aches and pains here today? Any sore spots? Your body getting a little weary. Anybody aware that you are getting older? Of course 'better', but older....

The Bible says that the outward man is perishing. The inward man is being renewed day by day. But the outer, the body. Hay! it is perishing. There is no question about it.

But, praise God, one day it is going to be redeemed. My soul has been redeemed. It has been set free from sin by accepting Christ. And that guarantees that one day my body is going to be set free from sin. And I am going to have a beautiful resurrected perfect body likened unto Jesus Christ...PRAISE THE LORD.....Two verses....

(1) First, Romans 8:22....Turn there please...Romans 8:22....

Vs 22 says "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

And that is true....Everybody is suffering....

Vs 23..."And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our what?.....body"....

God's ^{plan} ~~salvation~~ is so fantastic, so complete, that not only is your soul ~~redeemed~~ redeemed, ^{but our} your body is going to be set free. And that day is coming.

(2) Now, turn over to Luke, please. The Gospel of Luke chapter 21. This is part of the teaching of Christ on the Mt. of Olives.

Luke 21:27 says "And then will they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift ~~up~~ up your heads, because your ~~what is going to happen?~~ ~~what is going to happen?~~your redemption is drawing near."

You see, there is a future redemption. It isn't here yet. But when the Lord comes, you are going to be ^{Total} set free ^{from the very presence of sin}.

I hope you know Jesus as your saviour? • I hope you've trusted Him
willingly for Him.
Close in prayer