

SERMON OUTLINE

- II. Our spiritual blessings have Trinitarian provision.
 - D. God provides an inheritance in Christ (v. 11a).
 - 1. Upon the grounds of His predestinating work (v. 11b).
 - 2. According to His sovereign power (v. 11c).
 - 3. Resulting in the praise of His glory (v. 12).
 - E. God seals with His Holy Spirit (v. 13c).
 - 1. Who? Those in union with Christ (v. 13a).
 - 2. When? Upon hearing and believing the Gospel (v. 13b).
 - 3. For what? As a guarantee of our inheritance (v. 14a).
 - 4. Until when? Our redemption is complete (v. 14b)?
 - 5. With what result? The praise of God's glory (v. 14c).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 9, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 1:11-14

Memory Passage: Ephesians 1:11-14 (review 1:1-14)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 1:11-14.** To whom does the “in him” refer that begins v. 11?

(b) Consider the movement from “we” in vs 11-12, to “you” (v. 13), and back to “we” (v. 14). This could either refer to Paul and the Jews (“we” in vs. 11-12) and the Gentiles (“you,” pl., in v. 13) and then to both together (“we,” v. 14), or Paul and the first believers (“we” in vs. 11-12), the Ephesians (“you” in v. 13), and everyone (“we” in v. 14). Consider the context (both the immediate context of vs. 3-14 as well as the context of Ephesians as a letter) and support your opinion about which Paul is communicating.

(c) **Read Acts 20:32, Gal. 3:18, Eph. 1:17, 5:5, Col. 1:12, 3:18-4:1, Heb. 9:15, 11:8, & 1 Pet. 1:3-5** and write down what you learn about a saint’s inheritance.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 1:11-14.** Write down what you learned about predestination from our study of v. 5.

(b) The Greek word behind “have obtained an inheritance” is passive, and the translation “have received an inheritance” might better capture this voice. Just so you are clear: what do you do to receive your inheritance?

(c) What is the governing principle of the predestination through which we have received an inheritance (v. 11)?

(d) What are the implications of the fact that God “works *all things* according to the counsel of his will” (emphasis mine)? Are there any events, decisions, or circumstances that are *outside* God’s will? How does this reshape your view of suffering? Of evangelism? Of financial demise? Of the loss of loved ones? Of _____ (You fill in the blank with your own situation)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 1:11-14.** What did the Ephesian believers do in order to be “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit?”

(b) What, specifically, did they “hear,” and how did they respond? Does this indicate more than mere “listening?” Explain.

(c) Read the following passage and write down what you learn about what the term “seal” represents: Esth. 3:12, 8:8, Jer. 32:9-15, Dan. 6:17, John 3:31-33, 1 Cor. 9:2, Rev. 5:1-6, & 9:3-4.

(d) How do these areas of Authenticity, Authority, Ownership, and Security found in the above verses help you understand the role of the Holy Spirit’s sealing of believers?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Ephesians 1:11-14.** In what way is the Holy Spirit the “guarantee” or “down payment” (see ESV footnote) of a believer’s inheritance (cf. 2 Cor. 1:21-22, 5:1-5)?
- (b) What part of our inheritance do believers presently possess?
- (c) What part of our inheritance is yet future? When & how do we obtain it?
- (d) Explain the phrase “to the praise of his glory.” How does this phrase hold vs. 3-14 together (cf. v. 6, 13)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Ephesians 1:11-14.** What does it mean to “believe in the gospel” (v. 13)? What specifically must we believe?
- (b) Why does Paul put such an emphasis on God’s glory? Do you have this kind of emphasis in your life? In what ways (write at least 3) can you shift your focus from being centered on your own glory to centered on God’s glory?
- (c) In what way does the truth that you are in partial possession of your spiritual inheritance affect the way you live your life?
- (d) In what ways do these verses fuel evangelism & missions?

DATE: April 9, 2017**PASSAGE: Ephesians 1:11-14***Praise God for His Glorious Grace (Part V)*