

OUTLINE -THE AIM OF THE SEALING SPIRIT. Ephesians 1: 11-14

Reading: Ephesians 1: 1-14. - **1.** “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: **2.** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3.** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4.** just as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5.** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6.** to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. **7.** in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace **8.** which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **9.** having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in himself, **10.** that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him. **11.** In him we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12.** that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. **13.** In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise, **14.** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Text: Vv. 11-14, “***In Him.... to the praise of His glory.***”

INTRODUCTION. The importance of Ephesians in this part of God's Auto biography is to again display his work as the Holy Spirit of promise (or the promised Holy Spirit).

Planned (Vv. 4-6) – accomplished (Vv. 7-10) – sealed and guaranteed (Vv. 11-14).

It is very clear from this passage and from many other passages of Scripture that:

1. GOD'S people are GOD'S possession.

They were chosen, redeemed and sealed, and, in the last day will be seen as God's precious jewels displayed in heaven for all to see. (Mal. 3: 7)

Cf. V. 4 – And, V. 7 – And then in time and space

By this we, like the Jews the Ephesians, become members of God's family – His people – His Church – His “***inheritance***”. (V. 1 “***saints***” - V. 11 God's “***heritage***” – V. 14 God's own

“***possession***”. - It is God's sovereign will that we should be part of His family. His possession! Cf. O.T. (Deut. 7:6; 14: 2; 26: 18)

2. GOD'S people are Dependant upon GOD'S will and pleasure.

HOW? V. 5 - V. 9 - V. 11/12.

However, it is clear from Vv. 12/13 the Ephesians were not inactive.

a. **There has to be a “*trust*”,** Paul & his Jewish friends (“***we***” V. 12) – And “***you***” (Gentiles) V. 13. [Romans 10: 9/10 – John 3: 16].

b. **There must be a hearing of “*the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation*”. - How and When did this happen?**

I. “***By the foolishness of preaching***”(1 Cor 1:21) - Cf. Romans 10: 8-14 – Eph. 2: 8/9.

II. When did this happen to the Ephesians? Cf. Acts 19/20. 19: 8-10; 20: 18-21; Matt. 5: 24.

How do we know that God is active in the lives of His people? - Through the Holy Spirit! Vv. 13/14.

3. What then is man's chief end?

Three times Paul makes it clear. Vv. 5/6; V. 12 and V. 14 **But** cf. John 1: 13, Phil. 1: 6; - (Is. 48: 11)

- **Why** are you and I here today?
- Those who **have been saved**
- Those who are **unsaved**

Cf. 1 Cor. 10: 31.