



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Jesus changes lives

## EPHESIANS: PART #1 SALVATION



### *Ephesians #3 – We Are Sealed (1:11-14)*

“because you have made us for yourself,  
our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” - **Augustine**

#### NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Church Wide Prayer Night:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7pm. Home groups will be held at Church so we can participate in this event together.
- **Alpha Course! Thursday nights – Be praying for us**
  - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts.



## EPHESIANS #3 – WE ARE SEALED (1:11-14)

### REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

### DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

#### **Ephesians 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



## APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **CHEAP FULFILMENT:** *What 'things' do you find yourself pursuing more and more in the hopes that it will be the answer to your desires that transcend this world? Try to make people think of one or two things that are personal to them, not general; It could be tv-series, money, holiday, tech, books, food, thrills etc.*
3. **SATISFYING FULFILMENT:** Augustine, an early Church father, wrote to God **"because you have made us for yourself, our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you"**. *Do you think this is true? Have you experienced this restlessness? Do you ever feel that in pursuit of these pleasures, you are restless because they're finite endeavours that can't keep up with God's infinite-ness?*
4. **UNMOVABLE CERTAINTY – THE DOWNPAYMENT:**
  - a. We ask the question "how can I know I'm a redeemed person?". *What is the answer from the text? (The answer is that you heard the word, put your faith in the gospel, and were then sealed by the promised Holy Spirit (v13).)*
  - b. Your certainty in salvation is that the Holy Spirit seals you, and for those IN CHRIST you have been sealed in the present and will never be kicked out of the salvation by God. **\*\*\*Meditate on that thought of being securely sealed by God for 2 mins\*\*\***
  - c. Believers have the Holy Spirit as their seal because Jesus said it would be better for him to leave so that he could send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit. **Read John 16:6-7, 12-13.** It was better for Jesus to send all believers the Holy Spirit because the third member of the Trinity would reside in us each in as intimate a way as if Jesus were right beside us. *Does that thought take away any regret that Jesus isn't still physically here, because he has sent someone else just as worthy in His place?*
  - d. *Does it change or grow your perspective on the presence of God in your life?*
5. **EXPERIENTIAL REALITY – ALREADY/NOT YET:** What does experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit look like? Do you want more of God in your life? If yes, you can have it if you're "in Christ"!
  - a. **Father and Child on a beach example – our experience is constant, like a father holding a child's hand, but there are moments where he picks up his child, spins them in the air, kisses their head and tells them they are loved, and they continue walking again.**
  - b. Our experience of God is through the reality that we are sealed by the Spirit, and so experience his presence constantly, but will have moments in our lives where we are lifted up, spun around and shown 'more love' from God for a moment that brings great assurance. *Share your moments of experiencing God's love by the Spirit.*
6. **PRAY AS A GROUP:** *Are you ready to admit your restlessness and your need for rest in God through the Holy Spirit while we wait to acquire our full inheritance? Pray together that you would all experience the reality of the Holy Spirit residing inside of you this week, and if necessary, pray that God would satisfy you more than those 'cheap fulfillment things' you might be pursuing in place of God's immeasurable riches.*



## PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to embrace our true identity in Christ.

Pray that we would know the assurance that comes from knowing we are *redeemed in Christ*.

## NOTES

**1:3–3:21** *Calling of the Church Within Christ's Cosmic Reconciliation*. Paul unfolds for his readers God's eternal plan to unify all things in Christ, and explains how the church is to understand its call and identity—who it is, how it came about, and what its mission is within this plan.

**1:3–14** *Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ*. Appearing as one long sentence in the original Greek, this section is often called a “doxology.” Here, Paul praises God for his spiritual blessings in Christ (v. 3). These blessings are based on the work of the triune God: election and adoption by the Father (vv. 4–6), redemption in Christ (vv. 7–12), and sealing in the Spirit (vv. 13–14). Each of these three subsections concludes with a similar refrain that praises God's glory (vv. 6, 12, 14). This entire section presents a grand sweep of God's saving purposes. It begins with our election from “before the creation of the world” (v. 4) and climaxes with the pronouncement of God's will to bring unity to the cosmos under Christ (v. 10).

**1:11 we**. Probably refers to Paul and Jewish believers. The “we” contrasts with “you” (Gentile believers) in v. 13, and this we-you contrast anticipates the Jew-Gentile issue in ch. 2. **chosen**. Jewish believers in Christ “were made heirs”, or more specifically, God claimed them as his inheritance and possession in much the same way that he claimed Israel as his possession and heritage in the OT (Exod 19:5; Deut 4:20; 9:29; 32:9). **works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will**. Emphasizes God's providence and sovereignty. Everything that happens results from God's will in some way, and everything that God planned will certainly come to pass (Dan 4:35; Rom 11:36). At the same time, God never does evil and Scripture never blames God for evil or sin (Job 1:21–22; Rom 5:12). Humans are still responsible for their actions (Eccl 7:29; Rom 9:19–20). They should do right and not grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30).

**1:12 first to put our hope in Christ**. Paul affirms the salvation-historical priority of the Jews (John 4:22).

**1:13 you**. The majority of Paul's readers were probably Gentile. See note on v. 11. **marked ... with a seal**. In Paul's day, a seal indicated ownership and protection. The seal used to mark believers as God's people (Ezek 9:4–6; Rev 7:1–8; 9:4) and to preserve them until they attain their final “redemption” (Eph 1:14) is the Holy Spirit whom God promised (Ezek 36:26–27; Joel 2:28–29). Being marked with this seal does not refer to some second blessing or subsequent action; it refers to receiving the Spirit “when” Gentiles believe the gospel.

**1:14 deposit guaranteeing**. As the down payment or first installment, the Holy Spirit not only guarantees but also gives us a foretaste of the glorious life to come. **our**. Probably Jewish and Gentile believers. **inheritance**. While the OT tribes of Israel were allotted land for their inheritance, NT believers have a share in the kingdom of God. See Col 1:12; Heb 9:15; 1 Pet 1:4; cf. Eph 5:5. **until the**



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**redemption.** Although redemption has a present aspect (see Eph 1:7, which refers to release from the penalty and power of sin), there is nevertheless a future aspect—a time when believers will be released from the presence of sin and their bodies will be transformed. See 4:30; Rom 8:23; 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; 1 Pet 1:5.<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.

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<sup>1</sup> Moo, D. J. (2015). [The Letters and Revelation](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (p. 2400). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.