

## The Earnest of the Spirit Ephesians 1:11-14

INTRO: Ephesians 1:3-14 is a hymn of praise. These verses are Paul's doxology, Paul's praise to God for the great things He has done for the believer.

1. The first stanza is found in verses 3-6. This first stanza tells us of the Father's plan. It tells the believer that he is:
    - a. Chosen- 1:4
    - b. Predestinated- 1:5a
    - c. Adopted- 1:5b
    - d. All of this was done "to the praise of the glory of His grace."
  2. In verses 7-12, we have the second stanza of Paul's hymn of praise. In this stanza, we see the provision of the Son for believers:
    - a. Redeemed through His blood- 1:7a
    - b. Forgiveness of our sins- 1:7b
    - c. Revelation of the mystery of the Gospel- 1:9; 6:19
    - d. An inheritance- 1:11
    - e. All this is provided: "that we should be to the praise of His glory."
  3. The last stanza of Paul's doxology is found in verse 13-14 where we see the pledge of the Holy Spirit "unto the praise of His glory"- vs. 14. Notice it is all to the praise of His glory!
- I. VSS. 11-12, AN INHERITANCE PROVIDED.
- A. Vs. 11, "In whom" means that "in Him" in Christ we have an inheritance. We, believers, have been made heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
    1. Christ rewards us for something we did not do. He gives us an inheritance that we did not work for.
    2. "Also" means that on top of the spiritual blessings of:
      - a. Redemption through His blood (1:7a).
      - b. Forgiveness of sins (1:7b).
      - c. Spiritual illumination (1:8-9).

- We are made heirs with Christ of future blessings.
3. "We have obtained an inheritance." We are heirs.
    - a. "Heirs are those whom, apart from any merit of theirs, were given the right to all the blessings of salvation in Jesus Christ, nevermore to lose them" (Hendrikson 88).
    - b. This inheritance is given in two stages:
      - 1.) Things bestowed here and now. Salvation through the blood, pardon of sins, spiritual wisdom and insight.
      - 2.) Things bestowed hereafter. A resurrected body, death of the old man, heaven with Christ and much, much more.
  4. "Being predestinated...."
    - a. It is not fate or human merit that determines our destiny.
    - b. "Predestinated," this means "to predetermine, decide beforehand, to foreordain."
    - c. Believers are predestined to receive an inheritance. If God had not predestinated it, we would not get one.
      - 1.) We do not deserve this inheritance.
      - 2.) Our inheritance is a reward of God's grace and not out of our merit.
  5. "According to the purpose of Him..." The purpose of God for believers is that:
    - a. We be holy and faultless- 1:4.
    - b. We be adopted- 1:5
    - c. We glorify God forever- 1:6,12, 14.
  6. "Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."
    - a. Nothing can derail the future of God's chosen ones.
    - b. God will ever work in the lives of His people; He will never forsake them; and He will finish what He has begun (Phil. 1:6).
- B. Vs. 12, If salvation is all of grace, and it is, then we have nothing to boast about and all our praise is to go to God.

1. “God does not exist to satisfy the whim and wish of the believer. The believer exists for the glory of God” (McGee 224).
  - a. All that we do and say is to glorify God. What we wear, what we drink, and how we live are to bring glory to God.
  - b. The only way for a believer to be blessed is for him to live in accordance with God’s will for his life.
2. “Who first trusted in Christ.”
  - a. The word trusted here in vs 12 is not *pisteuo*: “to believe, to trust.” It is *proelpizo* meaning “to hope before.”
  - b. Although we have not received all of our inheritance, we have a sure hope that we will receive it. We look forward in faith to our glorified state.

## II. VSS. 13-14, SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Vs. 13, The Ephesian believers trusted in Christ after they had heard the Word of Truth.
  1. The Holy Spirit causes sinners to truly hear the truth and believe in their heart. This is hearing with spiritual ears not just hearing words.
  2. They heard the Gospel, I Cor. 15:1-4, and believed it.
    - a. They discovered that the Gospel was for them: “The Gospel of your salvation....”
    - b. Having heard the Word of Truth, the Ephesians believed the Gospel truth.
  3. At the point of belief, the Ephesians were “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.”
    - a. A seal marks a finished transaction. Even today when documents of importance are processed, they are stamped with an official seal to say the transaction is complete.
    - b. Sealing implies ownership. God knows us by His Seal, the Holy Spirit. John 10:14, “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

- 1.) Livestock are distinguished by the owner's brand. God's special brand is the Holy Spirit whereby we are marked out, branded, as His possession (Rom. 8:9; II Tim. 2:19).
  - 2.) The Holy Spirit marks us out as belonging to God, bought with a price.
  - c. This seal means security and protection. The Holy Spirit is in the believer sealing and protecting God's possession. This is explained in verse 14.
- B. Vs. 14, The Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance.
1. "Earnest," this word means, "a down payment, or a pledge that an agreement will be kept."
    - a. This word "earnest" settles the question of eternal security.
    - b. The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee to His children that He will finish what He started.
  2. "Redemption of the purchased possession" deals with the redemption of our vile bodies at the return of Christ. Our vile bodies will be changed when Christ returns. We are purchased; we will be redeemed. Actually, we are redeemed; we are being redeemed; and we shall be redeemed.
  3. "Unto the praise of His glory."
    - a. His is an echo from past verses.
    - b. You are not your own (I Cor. 6:19-20), so glorify God in your body.
    - c. We are saved to bring glory to God.

CONCLUSION: Are you born again? If so, does your life glorify God?

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