

THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

EPHESIANS 1:4-6, THE BASIS FOR REDEMPTION (Part 1) - CHOSEN BY THE FATHER

- A. Christians were chosen by God in eternity past for Himself (4), *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love*
1. *even as*
 - a. It looks back to verse 3, that those *blessed in Christ* receive blessings through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - b. Our blessings in Christ are because of God's election, Christ's redemption and the Holy Spirit's keeping.
 2. God sovereignly chose individuals to be in Christ.
 - a. Jesus Christ is our representative, the head of a redeemed race as seen in verse 3.
 - b. Ephesians 1:22, *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,*
 - c. Colossians 1:18, *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*
 3. God's choice began in eternity past.
 - a. Romans 8:30, *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 1:4, *For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,*
 - c. Titus 1:1, *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,*
 - d. Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 4. Redemption occurs when the elect place trust in Christ.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:13, *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*
 - b. Ephesians 1:3, *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,*
 - c. Romans 10:9, *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
 - d. Romans 1:16, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 5. Reasons why God chose individuals to be in Christ.
 - a. That the chosen should be *holy* which means *to be set apart from sin, dedicated to God.*
 - b. That the chosen should be *blameless* which means *without blemish.*
 - c. Colossians 1:22, *he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*
 - d. *Blameless* is a sacrificial word in which sacrifices to God must be without blemish. William Barclay, *This word does not mean that Christians must be respectable; it means that they must be perfect.*
 6. Chosen individuals are to respond *in love.*
 - a. *In love* probably modifies *to be holy and blameless before Him.*
 - b. A. B. Simpson, *...the freer the Lord's paramount choice, the deeper the debt of the chosen to live divine.*
 - c. Thomas Constable, *Our duty is to love God as well as to be pure.*
 - d. Harold Hoehner, *God is love and believers, because of God's electing love, should manifest love with holiness.*
- B. This adoption into the family of God came through the work of Jesus Christ as directed by the Father (5-6), *he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*
1. God predestined people for adoption as sons through the work of Jesus Christ.
 - a. *predestined*
 - 1) The word means *to come to a decision beforehand, to determine ahead of time.*
 - 2) Ephesians 1:5 has been translated, *those whom he decided upon ahead of time, these he called.*
 - 3) Romans 8:30, *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

- b. The relationship of predestination to election.
- 1) Thomas Constable, *Predestination looks more at the “what” than at the “who” of election. Election refers to people and predestination to purposes. God predetermined the final destiny of the elect, namely that He would adopt us as His full-fledged sons.*
 - 2) The final result of election is adoption.
 - a) Sons adopted in Greek culture had to same rights and privileges of those born into the family.
 - b) William Barclay, *We were absolutely in the power of sin and of the world; God, through Jesus, took us out of that power into his; and that adoption wipes out the past and makes us new.*
- c. The relationship of predestination to the unsaved.
- 1) The biblical concept of predestination does not deal with the unsaved.
 - a) The fact that God choose some for good does not mean that others are chosen for bad.
 - b) Leon Morris, *We should not see predestination as a grim process whereby God condemns great numbers of people to eternal loss. Rather, it is the outworking of a loving purpose whereby he delivers great numbers of people for salvation.*
 - 2) The issue of predestination concerns the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.
 - a) Passages concerning the sovereignty of God.
 - 1] Romans 8:29-30, *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
 - 2] John 6:44, *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*
 - 3] Ephesians 1:4-5, *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*
 - b) Passages concerning the role of man.
 - 1] John 1:12, *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*
 - 2] John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
 - 3] Matthew 11:28, *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
- d. Thoughts on the difficulty in understanding predestination and calling.
- 1) John Stott, *Scripture nowhere dispels the mystery of election, and we should beware of any who try to systematize it too precisely or rigidly. It is not likely that we shall discover a simple solution to a problem which has baffled the best brains of Christendom for centuries. But here at least in our text are three important truths to grasp and remember... 1) The doctrine of election is a divine revelation, not a human speculation. 2) The doctrine of election is an incentive to holiness, not an excuse for sin. 3) The doctrine of election is a stimulus to humility, not a ground for boasting.*
 - 2) Ken Boa, *When a man does something beyond the comprehension of an animal, it must remain a mystery to that animal since it has no categories it can use to correlate this behavior. A dog can be taught to fetch the morning newspaper, but it is another matter to teach it how to read it...The situation between us and God is similar, though even more exaggerated, because the distance between God’s intelligence and ours is greater than between our intelligence and a dog’s. Nevertheless, God can and has communicated with us; however, the communication is not always within our ability to grasp.*
 - 3) Max Anders, *We see that the Bible appears to teach both truths without reservation and without qualification. How do we begin to make sense out of these teachings? We begin by recognizing a fundamental principle in Isaiah 55:9: “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” It follows, then, that men cannot and should not expect to understand the Bible exhaustively. If they could, the Bible would not be divine but would be limited to human intelligence. The Bible contains some things so simple that even a child can understand them and some things so complex that the brightest minds will never understand them.*
 - 4) Personal thoughts
 - a) The parallel concepts of sovereignty and free will only cross at the heart of God.
 - b) I believe like a Calvinist (sovereignty of God) and I live like an Arminian (free will of man).

2. The means of adoption is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - a. God may legally adopt individuals from the ruler of this world because Jesus Christ was the ransom, our Redeemer.
 - b. Galatians 4:4-5, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*
 - c. John Stott, *God put us and Christ together in his mind. He determined to make us (who did not yet exist) his own children through the redeeming work of Christ (which had not yet taken place).*

3. The goal of adoption is that God will be praised for His grace to those He adopts.
 - a. Such grace is worthy of praise to God.
 - 1) Charles Hodge translated this section, *to the praise of the glory of his grace.*
 - 2) Passages that emphasize this glorious grace.
 - a) Ephesians 1:12, *so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*
 - b) Ephesians 1:14, *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*
 - c) Philippians 1:11, *filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*
 - 3) Comments
 - a) H. D. M. Spence, *Our union to the Beloved, our participating in all the blessings of his purchase, our becoming heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, further illustrates the glorious riches of his grace.*
 - b) Charles Hodge, *The design of redemption (adoption), therefore, is to exhibit the grace of God in such a conspicuous manner as to fill all hearts with wonder and all lips with praise.*
 - b. Such grace is unmerited.
 - 1) It comes through Jesus Christ Who is called *the Beloved*.
 - a) Colossians 1:13, *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*
 - b) Matthew 3:17, *and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*
 - 2) Comments
 - a) Thomas Constable, *Since God loves His Son, believers who are in Christ can rejoice that we too are the objects of God's love.*
 - b) Charles Hodge, *Christ is the beloved for his own sake; and it is to us only as in him and for his sake that the grace of God is manifested.*

EPHESIANS 1:7-12, THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION (Part 2) - THE SON

- A. Redemption was accomplished through Jesus' blood sacrifice which graciously forgives the sins of every believer (7), ***In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,***
 1. *In Him*
 - a. This refers to *the Beloved* in verse 6.
 - b. The basis for redemption is Jesus.

 2. The meaning and the means of *redemption*.
 - a. It means *release from slavery*
 - 1) It involves buying back and setting free by paying a ransom price.
 - 2) Here, it refers to God's acting to deliver people from slavery to sin.

 - b. It required a blood sacrifice
 - 1) Hebrews 9:22, *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*
 - 2) The only blood sacrifice sufficient for redemption was the blood of Jesus.
 - a) 1 Peter 1:19, *but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*
 - b) Ephesians 2:13, *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
 - c) Romans 3:24-25a, *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

- 3) To whom was the ransom paid?
 - a) It couldn't be made to Satan since God defeated Satan and owes him nothing.
 - b) I believe the ransom shows that what Jesus accomplished is sufficient and that Satan can't tell the redeemed that He still has authority over them because his authority was broken at the cross.
3. Redemption provides the blessing of forgiveness of sins solely on the basis of grace.
 - a. *forgiveness of sins* is not a definition of redemption but a feature or blessing of redemption.
 - 1) Everyone is in need of forgiveness, Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
 - 2) Forgiveness is permanent, Psalm 103:12, *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
 - 3) Forgiveness comes by faith, Acts 10:43, *To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*
 - b. The grace of God authorized redemption.
 - 1) Ephesians 2:7, *so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
 - 2) Charles Hodge, *It is not because one is wiser, better, or more noble than others, that he is made a partaker of this grace; but God chooses the foolish, the ignorant, and those who are of no account, that they who glory may glory only in the Lord.*
 - c. The redeemed are not just forgiven but are new creations with an inner change of life.
 - 1) 2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself..*
 - 2) Hebrews 10:16, *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,*
4. An example of the meaning of redemption by Donald Gray Barnhouse, Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, (Pastor, 1927-1960), retold by Max Anders,

A boy was given a model sailboat by his father to sail in the lake in the park. One day as he was sailing it, the wind came up, broke the string, and blew the sailboat away. The boy was heartbroken.

One day, sometime later, the boy was walking past a toy store downtown. There in the window was his sailboat. Apparently, someone on the other side of the lake had found it. The boy went in the store and said, "The boat in the window is my boat, and I would like for you to give it to me." The store owner said, "I'm sorry, sonny, but that boat is mine. Someone brought it in here the other day, and I bought it from him. It is mine."

The heartbroken boy went home and told his father the story. His father gave his son the money. The next day, the young boy went back to the store to buy back his own boat. That is the picture of redemption - to buy back, to set free.

- B. Redemption is a highlight of God's grace lavished on believers (8), ***which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight***
 1. God lavished grace on the redeemed.
 - a. *which* looks back to verse 7 and God's gift of grace.
 - b. Thomas Constable, *God has given abundant grace to us, not just the bare essential amount needed. This reference hints at many other benefits of Christ's death that Paul did not enumerate here.*
 - c. Some of God's gracious blessings are listed in verses 4-14, chosen (v. 4), predestined (v. 5), adopted (v. 5), accepted (v. 6), redeemed (v. 7), forgiven (v. 7), enlightened (vs. 8-9), given an inheritance (v. 11), sealed (v. 13), and assured (v. 14).
 - d. Others include justification, sanctification, glorification, spiritual service, suffering, prayer and hope, to name a few.
 2. God lavished this grace in wisdom and insight.
 - a. On understanding the meanings of *wisdom* and *insight*.
 - 1) Richard Trench, *Wisdom is what is highest and noblest, and insight or understanding is the means by which we perceive it.*
 - 2) It could be said that *wisdom* is the acknowledgment of truth and *insight* is the proper application of it.

- b. What does this last part of verse 8 modify?
 - 1) This wisdom and insight could be connected to God in verse 8, that God in all wisdom and insight supplied grace but God is all knowing and does all things well, all the time.
 - 2) It could be connected to the following clause in verse 9, *they mystery of his will*, but I believe that clause is the beginning of another concept dealing with the supremacy of Christ.
 - 3) Or, it could be connected to *grace* in verse 8, which I believe is best. The grace of God has been lavished on the redeemed and He enables us to comprehend that grace by His provision of wisdom and insight.

- C. Redemption enlightens believers to the mystery of God's will which is to unite all things to Himself (9-10), ***making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.***
 1. God's lavish grace includes His revelation of *the mystery of His will*.
 - a. A *mystery* is truth previously hidden but now made known by divine revelation, Matthew 13:11, *And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*
 - b. Biblical mysteries reveal the will of God which involve His purposes, Ephesians 1:5, *he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

 2. Many believe there is no purpose in history.
 - a. Sir George Clark, *There is no secret and no plan in history to be discovered. I do not believe that any future consummation could make sense of all the irrationalities of preceding ages.*
 - b. Andre Maurois, *The universe is indifferent. Who created it? Why are we here on this puny mud-heap spinning in infinite space? I have not the slightest idea, and I am quite convinced that no one has the least idea.'*

 3. God has a plan whose purpose concerns the role of Jesus Christ in all creation.
 - a. It is a plan revealed in the *fullness of time*.
 - 1) Inception, Galatians 4:4, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,*
 - 2) Summation, W. Barclay, *At present there is still discord in the universe, but in the fullness of time the discord will cease, and that unity for which we long will come into being under the headship of Jesus Christ.*

 - b. It is a plan that concerns the preeminence of Jesus Christ.
 - 1) The word *plan* refers to a set of arrangements, the management of a household.
 - a) Ephesians 3:9, *and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,*
 - b) Colossians 1:25, *of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,*

 - 2) Here the plan is to reveal the role of Jesus Christ in the world.
 - a) Max Anders, *The mystery known to believers but unknown and not understood by unbelievers is that when the time is right God will bring all things in heaven and earth to a fitting conclusion in Christ who will be the head or ruler of all things.*
 - b) Everything and everyone, on earth and in heaven, will come under the authority of Jesus Christ, forever.

 - 3) Biblical pictures of that blessed time.
 - a) The Millennial Kingdom will be a time when control by Jesus Christ is evident to all, note Isaiah 2:2-4, *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*
 - b) Revelation 22:3-5, *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

- D. Redemption provided an inheritance first for Jewish believers which brought praise to God (11-12), *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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*
1. Paul speaks of an inheritance that has been received.
 - a. It is spoken of in the past tense.
 - b. Inheritance refers to *be chosen* and is only used here in the New Testament.
 - 1) Note Deuteronomy 4:20, *But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.*
 - 2) Jewish believers were chosen for salvation because He predestined them to be part of His plan.
 - 3) They were chosen first.
 - a) Romans 1:16, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - b) Paul contrasts *we* in verse 11 with *you* in verse 13; he is speaking of Jewish Christians in verse 11 and Gentile Christians in verse 13.
 - c) God has chosen people for an inheritance from all people groups.
 - 4) This plan of God centers *In Him*, Jesus Christ.
 - c. Every Christians was predestined based on God's will in accord with His purpose.
 - 1) Paul emphasizes the sovereignty of God as he did in verse 5.
 - 2) Verses on the sovereignty of God.
 - a) Psalm 115:3, *Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*
 - b) Proverbs 16:9, *The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*
 - 3) H. D. M. Spence on *the counsel of God's will*, *The fallen creature's will is often whimsical, the result of some freak or fancy; often, too, it is the outcome of pride, avarice, sensual affection, or some other evil feeling; but God's will is the expression of his infinite perfections, and must always be infinitely holy, wise, and good.*
 2. Jewish Christians who first hoped in Christ were for the praise of the glory of God.
 - a. There is no personal merit in being chose by God because it is all grace. What God is accomplishing through Jesus Christ demands all praise go back to our Heavenly Father.
 - b. Harold Hoehner, *Christ has set the sinner free from his sin and has revealed His will that all things will be headed up in Christ at the end of the ages, including the Jewish believers who first trusted in Him.*
 - c. Stephen Fowl, *...the vocation and proper end of all creatures is the praise of God.*

EPHESIANS 1:13-14, THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION (Part 3) - THE HOLY SPIRIT
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- A. Gentile believers are sealed (kept) by the Holy Spirit when they place faith in Christ alone, as are Jewish believers (13), *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,*
1. Introductory notes
 - a. Harold Hoehner, *God's spiritual blessings for believers are based not only on the sovereign election of the Father (vv. 3–6) and the redemptive work of the Son (vv. 7–12), but also on the seal of the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Thomas Constable, *There are about 59 references to the Holy Spirit in Ephesians, one-fourth of the total references in the New Testament.*
 2. *In Him you also*
 - a. In verse 11, Paul reminded Jewish believers that their redemption was in Christ.
 - b. Here, Paul declared that redemption is in Christ for Gentile believers, as well.
 3. The process of redemption in verse 13.
 - a. Hear the Gospel message.
 - 1) *heard*
 - a) In this verse, it means more than acknowledging the statement.
 - b) Here, it means to obey.
 - 1] Matthew 17:5, *He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*

- 2] Acts 4:19, *But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,*
- 3] This is confirmed by the next step which is *believe*.
- 2) *the word of truth*
- a) *The word of truth* is defined as the gospel of your salvation.
 - b) The only message that must be heard that can provide salvation is the Gospel.
 - c) The best definition of the Gospel is in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*
- b. Believe the Gospel message.
- 1) The Gospel message is all about the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
 - a) *Believing in Him* includes not only what He accomplished at the cross but Who He is, God the Son.
 - b) Who Jesus is determined what He could do.
 - 2) *belief*
 - a) The word for belief in this verse means *to place confidence in, to trust*.
 - b) It is reliance not just credence (belief).
 - c) James 2:19, *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*
 - 3) This is the point of salvation.
 - a) Faith is tied to God's calling.
 - b) Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 - c) Romans 10:13-15, *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?*
- c. Be sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- 1) Notes on *seal*.
 - a) It means *to make secure*, as in Matthew 27:66, *So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*
 - b) The seal is only as secure as the one who owns the seal.
 - c) The meaning of *seals* in the New Testament.
 - 1] Authenticity, John 6:27, *Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.*
 - 2] Ownership, Revelation 9:4, *They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*
 - d) Max Anders, *Alexander the Great is said to have sent an emissary to Egypt. This emissary was without weapons or military escort, but he carried the seal of Alexander the Great. He met with the king of Egypt, who stood with his army behind him. The emissary communicated to the king the message from Alexander the Great: discontinue hostilities against Alexander's interests. The king of Egypt, wishing to save face, said that he would consider the request and let the emissary know. The emissary drew a circle in the dirt around the king of Egypt, and said, "Do not leave the circle without informing me of your response." What an audacious move. The emissary was unarmed and without military support. The king could have had him drawn and quartered for such a bold move against him. One unarmed man against the entire army of Egypt. Except for one thing. The emissary carried the seal of Alexander. He carried the authority and power of Alexander. To touch the emissary was to touch Alexander. To disobey the emissary was to disobey Alexander. The king of Egypt stood in silence, then said, "Tell Alexander he has his request," and stepped out of the circle...The picture for us is clear. We are God's possession. Therefore, we are secure, having the protection of God. We are authentic children of his, for his seal verifies it.*
 - 2) The Holy Spirit as *seal*.
 - a) He was promised to every believer.
 - 1] For Jewish believers, Acts 2:36-38, *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- 2] For Gentile believers, Acts 10:43-45, *To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.* While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.
 - 3] From the Old Testament, Joel 2:28-29, *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*
 - 4] From the New Testament, John 14:16-17, *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
- b) His sealing takes place at the moment of believing.
 - 1] Acts 2:38, *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
 - 2] Acts 19:2, *And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*
 - c) He confirms the believer’s salvation, Romans 8:9, *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*
 - d) He confirms God’s ownership of Christians.
 - 1] Romans 8:16, *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
 - 2] 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
 - e) He permanently indwells every believer.
 - 1] John 14:16, *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*
 - 2] Ephesians 4:30, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
- 3) Comments on sealed.
 - a) Max Anders, *God seals, or marks, his children with the Holy Spirit, indicating that we are his, that we are authentic spiritual children, not fakes or impostors, and that we are under his protection.*
 - b) William Barclay, *The highest experiences of Christian peace and joy which this world can afford are only faint foretastes of the joy into which we will one day enter. It is as if God had given us enough to whet our appetites for more and enough to make us certain that some day he will give us all.*

B. All believers are guaranteed that they have an inheritance in Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit (14), ***who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.***

1. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance.
 - a. *Guarantee means the initial payment as a pledge or down payment.*
 - 1) 2 Corinthians 1:22, *and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*
 - 2) 2 Corinthians 5:5, *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*
 - 3) Stephen Fowl, *It (Guarantee) indicates God’s commitment to bring to completion the redemption achieved by Christ’s resurrection, which awaits completion at his second coming.*

- b. *Inheritance means the possessions of the believer which will fully take place in heaven.*
 - 1) Hebrews 9:15a, *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...*
 - 2) 1 Peter 1:4, *to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*
 - c. *Possession of it*
 - 1) The redemption in verse 7 is justification, release from the guilt of sin.
 - 2) We are being redeemed as we participate with the Holy Spirit in sanctification.
 - 3) In verse 14, the view is toward glorification when we will be fully like Christ.
 - 4) This will take place at our death or when Christ returns, whichever comes first.
 - d. Max Anders on some things Christians will possess in the future.
 - 1) *We will understand many things that are now incomprehensible...Our minds are now darkened by the presence of sin; but when our sin is removed, our minds will be free to function clearly.*
 - 2) *Our true desires will be fulfilled. God is the One who alone can perfectly complete us. Everything that we long for on earth is ultimately to be fulfilled in heaven. It is heaven that we long for. It is God whom we seek.*
 - 3) *Our passions will be pure and sinless. Our fellowship and love for God will be reflected in intimate love and complete unity among other believers.*
 - 4) *Physically, the troubles and distractions caused by the constant demands of weak and dying bodies will disappear. We will not get tired or diseased and will need no sleep. It will be unnecessary to spend time traveling from one place to another. We will not have to worry about clothing or food.*
2. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is to the praise of God's glory.
 - a. God's glory is to be praised for the work of the Father in Ephesians 1:6.
 - b. God's glory is to be praised for the work of the Son in Ephesians 1:12.
 - c. God's glory is to be praised for the work of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1:14.
 - d. W. Wiersbe, *We often have the idea that God saves sinners mainly because He pities them, or wants to rescue them from eternal judgment, but God's main purpose is that He might be glorified.*
 3. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is a confirmation of eternal security.
 - a. The salvation of a Christian is not based on his faithfulness but on the faithfulness of God.
 - b. Other passages that assure believers of their future inheritance.
 - 1) John 6:39-40, *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*
 - 2) John 10:27-30, *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*
 - 3) Philippians 1:6, *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*
 - 4) Romans 8:29-30, *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
- C. The work of the Holy Spirit
1. In creation
 - a. Genesis 1:2, *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*
 - b. Psalm 104:29-30, *When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.*
 2. In Scriptures
 - a. 2 Peter 1:21, *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Acts 1:16, *Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.*

3. In Jesus Christ
 - a. Conception, Luke 1:35, *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*
 - b. Anointed at baptism, Matthew 3:16, *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;*
 - c. Empowered to perform miracles, Matthew 12:28, *But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
 - d. Resurrection, Romans 8:11, *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

4. In Christians
 - a. At salvation
 - 1) Regeneration
 - a) John 3:7-8, *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*
 - b) John 6:63, *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*
 - 2) Baptism, 1 Corinthians 12:13, *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*
 - 3) Indwelling
 - a) John 14:17, *even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
 - b) Romans 8:9, *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*
 - 4) Sealing, Eph. 1:13, *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,*
 - 5) Spiritual gifts, 1 Corinthians 12:4, *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
 - b. Ongoing ministry
 - 1) Filling, Ephesians 5:18, *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*
 - 2) Guidance, Galatians 5:16, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*
 - 3) Empowerment, Gal. 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
 - 4) Illumination, 1 Cor. 2:13, *And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*
 - 5) Instruction, John 14:26, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
 - 6) Conviction, Ephesians 4:30, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
 - c. In the church
 - 1) Direction, Acts 13:2, *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*
 - 2) Leadership, Acts. 20:28, *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

3. In the world, John 16:8, *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:*

CONCLUSION

- A. Max Anders, *We have been chosen and adopted by him to be his spiritual children. He made this choice before the creation of the world with the result that we will someday stand before him holy and blameless. God the Father accomplished this through the work of his Son, Jesus, motivated by his desire to be kind to us and by his desire to receive praise for his grace.*
- B. Redemption was accomplished by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- C. How did we become God's people? It was God's will.
- D. Why did He make us His people? It was for His glory.
- E. John Stott, ... *everything we have and are in Christ both comes from God and returns to God. It begins in his will and ends in his glory.*