

**"God's Grace in the Believer's Life"**

**Part 5**

**Ephesians 1:11-14**

**Introduction:** In our study of the book of Ephesians we have been looking at the believer's riches in Jesus Christ. When we were saved, we were immediately placed into the body of Jesus Christ.

So, it is in Christ that we have been blessed by the GRACE of God. Here in Ephesians 1 we are learning WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST. The most difficult part of learning this chapter is to separate our feelings from the facts.

When you repent of your sin and you place your faith in Jesus Christ you are:

1. **Blessed with all spiritual riches in Christ.**

**Ephesians 1:3**

2. **Made holy and blameless.**

**Ephesians 1:4**

3. **Placed into God's royal family.**

**Ephesians 1:5**

4. **Accepted in Christ.**

**Ephesians 1:6**

5. **Redeemed by His blood.**

**Ephesians 1:7**

6. **Forgiven of all our sin debt.**

**Ephesians 1:7**

7. **Blessed with an Eternal Hope.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:8-10**

This now brings us to where we are in our study today.

8. **The Guarantee of our Blessings.**

We live in a world today in which it is becoming more and more difficult to find people who are true to their promises. Promises, contracts, agreements, and covenants are broken

every single day. We have all made promises that we have not followed through with. We are in a sinful world and sinful people break promises. It is however becoming more difficult to find someone who is true to their word today.

But with God we can be sure that He will never break His promises.

**Titus 1:1-2**

*Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*

<sup>2</sup> *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began:*

**Hebrews 6:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

<sup>18</sup> *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

The word IMMUTABLE means "FIXED, UNALTERABLE". The 2 things which show God's counsel is STEDFAST and UNALTERABLE is His WORD and His PROMISES which are also STEDFAST and UNALTERABLE.

**Numbers 23:19**

<sup>19</sup> *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

**Hebrews 10:23**

<sup>23</sup> *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

**Romans 4:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

<sup>21</sup> *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

When God makes a Promise, He will follow through with His Promise and there is absolutely nothing which can keep Him from bringing it to pass.

Now here in Ephesians we are going to see the guarantee of God's Promises.

**Notice Ephesians 1:11**

This verse carries the thought of something which Paul just touched on in verse 9.

**Notice Ephesians 1:9**

The MYSTERY was that Jews and Gentiles would be joint heirs in Christ.

**Ephesians 3:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery: (as I wrote afore in few words,*

<sup>4</sup> *Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

<sup>5</sup> *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*

<sup>6</sup> *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

**Notice Ephesians 1:11 again.**

The WE here is a reference to the Jews. Remember that this letter is written to the Gentiles. Now here we see that not only do we Gentiles have an inheritance in Christ but so do the Jews who are in Christ.

God predetermined before the foundation of the world that the Jews who would repent and turn to Jesus Christ would also be joint heirs with Him.

**Romans 8:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

<sup>17</sup> *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

All Gentile believers and all Jewish believers are JOINT HEIRS with Jesus Christ.

**Notice Ephesians 1:12**

It was the Jews who first trusted in Jesus Christ. It was the Jews at Pentecost who first were given the Holy Spirit. It was later that when the Gentiles would receive the Gospel. Now in the next verse Paul goes back to the Gentiles.

**Notice Ephesians 1:13**

The words "YE ALSO" refer to the Gentiles. Here is a very informative verse. We see first of all that salvation is by trusting in Jesus Christ and we also see that a person must hear the Gospel before they can be saved. The WORD OF TRUTH here refers to the Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

<sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Here is the WORD OF TRUTH which is the GOSPEL. It is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day. This is the message which people need to hear.

**Romans 10:11-14, 17**

<sup>11</sup> For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

<sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

<sup>13</sup> For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

<sup>17</sup> So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It is the Gospel that has the power to set people free from the bondage of sin.

**Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Now, let me just say, that if you are relying upon anything other than what Jesus did to get you into heaven you are not saved. There is ONE MESSAGE and there is ONE WAY.

**John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**Acts 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

I also need to point out that in this verse we see that salvation is by FAITH and not by works.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Notice Ephesians 1:13**

We also see here that the moment we believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ then we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. This is not a second work of grace at a later time as some teach.

**Romans 8:9**

<sup>9</sup> *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

The Holy Spirit here is referred to as the "HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE". This title looks back to the promise which Jesus made to His disciples.

**John 14:16-18a**

<sup>16</sup> *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

<sup>17</sup> *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

<sup>18</sup> *I will not leave you comfortless:*

I believe He is referred to as the Holy Spirit of PROMISE to be an encouragement to these Gentile believers. Jesus PROMISED to send the Spirit and He did so He was TRUE to His Word. This shows His faithfulness and if He was faithful to that PROMISE, we and they can be sure He will be true to all the PROMISES we read of in this chapter.

The Bible speaks often of a SEAL and the SEAL speaks of many things.

**1. Security**

**Matthew 27:66**

<sup>66</sup> So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

**2. Authenticity**

**John 6:27**

<sup>27</sup> Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

**John 3:33**

<sup>31</sup> He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

<sup>32</sup> And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

<sup>33</sup> He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

**3. Ownership**

**Revelation 7:1-3**

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

<sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

<sup>3</sup> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Because we have been SEALED by the Spirit all of these apply to us. We are SECURE, AUTHENTIC, and we BELONG TO GOD.

**Notice Ephesians 1:14**

The Holy Spirit is the down payment which God has given to show that He will return to perform the final redemption when we will be free from the PRESENCE of SIN.

Conclusion:

I will stop today with a passage from Jeremiah that gives a wonderful picture.

**Jeremiah 32:6-11**

*<sup>6</sup> And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*<sup>7</sup> Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.*

*<sup>8</sup> So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.*

*<sup>9</sup> And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.*

*<sup>10</sup> And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.*

*<sup>11</sup> So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:*

This land would go into the hands of the Babylonians but since it was purchased, and the sale was sealed Israel would one day return to claim this land as her own.

**The same is true for us. God bought us with the blood of His Son, He sealed us with the Holy Spirit, and He is coming back to claim His possession.**