

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 4-13-14 PM NOTES  
"OUR SECURE INHERITANCE"  
EPHESIANS 1:11-14  
#4 in Series, "The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Christian"

**Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV)** "20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."

**1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)** "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

I. Our Inheritance in God the Son (vv. 11-13a)

"...every aspect of God's relationship to believers is in some way connected to our relationship with Christ. From God's counsels in eternity past before the world was created, to our fellowship with God in Heaven in eternity future, and including every aspect of our relationship with God in this life—all has occurred in union with Christ." —Wayne Grudem

**Ephesians 1:4a (NKJV)** "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."

**2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB)** "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity."

**Romans 5:19 (NKJV)** "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** "For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

**Isaiah 53:6b (NKJV)** "And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

**1 Peter 2:24 (NASB)** "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

**Romans 6:6a (NKJV)** "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*..."

**Romans 6:3-5 (NASB)** "3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection."

**Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)** "and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus."

**Philippians 4:13 (NASB)** "I can do all things through [in] Him who strengthens me."

**Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)** "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

**2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)** "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

**Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)** "6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

**Ephesians 1:11a (HCSB)** "In Him we were also made His inheritance..."

**John 6:37, 39 (NKJV)** “<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

A. Our Inheritance from God’s Perspective (vv. 11, 12b)

**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.”

**Revelation 21:4 (NKJV)** “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

B. Our Inheritance from Man’s Perspective (vv. 12a, 13a)

**Ephesians 1:12 (KJV)** “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

“Faith is man’s response to God’s elective purpose. God’s choice of men is election; men’s choice of God is faith. In election God gives His promises, and by faith men receive them.”  
—John MacArthur

II. Our Security in God the Holy Spirit (vv. 13b, 14)

A. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit (v. 13b)

1. A Seal Signifies a Finished Transaction

2. A Seal Signifies Ownership

**Isaiah 43:1b (NKJV)** “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; You *are* Mine.”

3. A Seal Signifies Protection

4. A Seal Signifies Authenticity

**Romans 8:9b (NKJV)** “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

B. The Guarantee of the Holy Spirit (v. 14)

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Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence in the Greek, and it is the longest sentence in the Bible.

In the late 1600's in Scotland, there was a great deal of conflict between the armies loyal to the deposed Roman Catholic Monarch, James II of England and the Presbyterian Covenanters. The Covenanters were hunted down and killed – because they would not cease meeting together in worship and teaching things that contradicted the Catholic Church. The Covenanters worshipped together wherever they could – in caves, on the hills, and in other hideouts. One day a Scottish girl on her way to the secret worship place was overtaken by troops loyal to King James II and the Roman Catholic Church. The leader of the troops demanded to know where the girl was going early on Sunday morning. She understood her danger and the danger of her fellow believers if she told the truth. But she couldn't lie. So she looked the Captain in the eye and creatively said, “Sir, My Elder Brother has died and they're reading his will. I want to see what he has left for me.” Jesus Christ, our “joint heir” (Romans 8:17) died and rose from the dead and we have an inheritance in Him and with Him. Our text tells gives us information about that inheritance.

When God promises us an inheritance, it will come. Human beings are constantly breaking promises. Governments are always breaking promises. Sometimes it is an intentional breaking of a promise and sometimes it is unintentional because things happen that are outside our control that make it impossible for us to fulfill what we promised. God never breaks a promise and since He is all powerful and all knowing He always has the ability to fulfill what He has promised. Keep that in mind as we look at what He has promised in the passage we are looking at in this message. We can be as Abraham in **Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV)** “<sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

The inheritance we are promised here and in other places in the Scripture is the future part of our salvation. According to Ephesians 1:4, believers were chosen by God for salvation in the distant past (before the foundation of the world); we have been redeemed and forgiven in this present age; we will receive our completed inheritance in the future. Let's explore this inheritance that Peter described in **1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)** “... an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”.

#### I. Our Inheritance in God the Son (V11-13a)

Notice again those two little powerful words, “In Him” (V11a, 13a). All of our blessings, power, salvation, and future inheritance are in Him. Let's review for a moment what it means to be “in Him”. The phrase “in Him”, “in Christ”, “in the Beloved” all refer to our union with Christ. Theologian Wayne Grudem says this about our union with Christ. “...every aspect of God's relationship to believers is in some way connected to our relationship with Christ. From God's counsels in eternity past before the world was created, to our fellowship with God in Heaven in eternity future, and including every aspect of our relationship with God in this life – all has occurred in union with Christ.” [Wayne Grudem, *Systemic Theology*, Page 840]. This union with Christ starts before the world was created. **Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)** “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...” Remember that God is not limited by the time dimension that He created. He saw us in Christ from the beginning of time. **2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB)** “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity”. At a point in time, God saw all of our sins on Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **Isaiah 53:6b (NKJV)** “And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” These were sins that we had not yet committed in time, but God

knew about them in advance and thought of them as being in Christ. His suffering and shed blood was for all of them. **1 Peter 2:24 (NASB)** “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” When Christ died on the cross, God saw the old us in Adam crucified with Him. **Romans 6:6a (NKJV)** “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*...”. In the same way God thought of us as buried with Christ, raised with Him, and ascended with Him – because we were in union with Christ – IN HIM! **Romans 6:3-5 (NASB)** “<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus [in union with Christ] have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection”. **Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)** “and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus”. We were chosen in Christ, crucified and buried in union with Christ, raised in union with Christ, and seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. It all became experiential when in time you were convicted of sin, you repented of sin, and you savingly believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and counted His sacrifice as sufficient for your sins. Oh the power of those two little words “**in Christ**”! It doesn’t stop with salvation. It is out of that union with Christ that we walk in victory day by day and moment by moment. Every action in our lives is to be done **in Christ**. We are capable of doing all that He desires us to do **in Christ**. **Philippians 4:13 (NASB)** “I can do all things through [a note in the text says this is literally “**in**”] Him who strengthens me.” In spiritual warfare we are told in **Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” We are to live a godly life **in Him**. **2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)** “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” God’s desire for Christians is that they live and walk **in Christ**. **Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)** “<sup>6</sup> As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” I will spend the rest of my life seeking to understand my union with Christ and walking by faith that these things are literally true. Faith is acting like God is telling the truth! I am maturing when my practice begins to match my position of being **in Christ**! [Much of this paragraph was taken from Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, pages 843-844].

Let’s move back to the text. In verse 11, our inheritance is so sure that it cannot fail to happen. Though much of it is in the future, Paul speaks of it in the present (“have obtained an inheritance”). When something was so certain that it could not fail to happen, the Greeks spoke of it as already done. There are two interesting ways to translate the first part of verse 11. Both are taught clearly elsewhere. Verse 11 could be correctly translated, “In Him also we were made an inheritance”. It could also be translated “we have obtained an inheritance.” Both are possible. The HCSB uses the first alternative I gave you: **Ephesians 1:11a (HCSB)** “In Him we were also made His inheritance...” Are believers Christ’s inheritance, or is it us who will receive an inheritance? Both are clearly taught elsewhere. For instance Jesus often spoke of believers being gifts that the Father had given Him. **John 6:37, 39 (NKJV)** “<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.” However when verse 11 is translated as it is in the NKJV, ESV, NASB, and NIV God is the giver and we are the receiver of the inheritance. I believe the verse here (based on context) is talking about the inheritance that the Father has for us. This whole long sentence has the emphasis of the things that God has given to us. Thus it seems to fit that the inheritance would be what he has prepared for us. Both ways of translating this verse are wonderful for the Christian.

Let’s examine this inheritance from God’s Perspective and from our perspective. It is essential that we always keep a balance between God’s perspective and man’s perspective.

#### A. Our Inheritance from God’s Perspective (V11, 12b)

As was pointed out earlier, from God’s perspective the inheritance is already given though we have not received it in its fullness yet. Notice that from God’s perspective, our inheritance is predestined. As we saw in verse 5, to predestine is to mark out or determine beforehand. We also saw that while

predestination often involves persons, it usually refers to God's purposes; it is what God has predetermined to do. Notice in verse 11, "...predestined according to the purpose of Him..." In eternity past, God who is not limited by time determined that all who are in Christ would receive an inheritance. To carry out what He has predestined involves His power. Notice in verse 11, "... Him who works all things...". The Greek word translated "works" is the word that we get "energy" from. God is so powerful that He works all things together to fulfill His purposes. God doesn't just have the plan; He has the power, the energy to see that the plan is accomplished. Notice the purpose in the last part of verse 12: "to the praise of His glory." It is all done for His praise and glory. Here is how it works. God predestines His purposes. God then in His power and through His providential working carries out His purposes. The result is that our lives should be "to the praise of His glory". It is this process that Paul is summarizing in **Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)** "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ". This is why we believe in the eternal security of a truly saved person. God has predestined through His power and purposes that we continue to be conformed to the likeness of Christ through God's providential workings until the inheritance is fully received and we are with Him in that place where **Revelation 21:4 (NKJV)** tells us that "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." How else could we respond but to say with **Ephesians 1:12b (NKJV)** "...to the praise of His glory."

It is interesting that the Scriptures almost always present salvation from God's side first so that we will not be tempted to take any glory for what He has done. The glory for our salvation goes to God alone!

#### B. Our Inheritance from Man's Perspective (V12a, 13a)

In the Greek text verse 12 is reversed. The KJV is the most accurate here. **Ephesians 1:12 (KJV)** "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." To review, from God's perspective we were chosen before the foundation of the world, predestined to be conformed to the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29), called to Christ, and justified (declared righteous) in Christ. From man's perspective, we are saved because we trusted in Christ after we heard the Word of truth – specifically the Gospel. The word "trusted" in verse 12 and implied in verse 13 means to place one's hope and confidence and reliance upon Christ and His finished work on the cross.

Notice several things in these verses. No one trusts in Christ until they have heard the word of truth – the Gospel. That is why it is so important that we go to every people group and share the word of truth. No one is saved by our apologetics (our defense of the faith); no one is saved by our example of compassion for the poor and those who are being treated unjustly. Those actions may be used by God to open hearts more to the Gospel, but until they hear the message of the Gospel, they will not be saved. Someone may be trying to tie neatly together salvation from God's perspective and from our perspective. If God providentially "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (V11b), then couldn't He save someone without that person ever hearing the Gospel? No, because the God who has declared the end has also declared the means to that end. The end of **Ephesians 1:11b (NKJV)** "...being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will" is accomplished through the God ordained means of **Ephesians 1:13a (NKJV)** "In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..."

If you're having a hard time putting this all together, relax. There is a tension here that we will never be true to the Scriptures if we water down what it says about salvation from God's perspective or if we water down what it says about man's perspective. Dr. Curtis Vaughn, a New Testament Professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary when I attended there used to explain it with this simple illustration. It is as though when we look toward Heaven there is a sign that says, "Whosoever will may come". When we enter Heaven and look back at the same sign, it says on the other side, "Chosen in Him from the foundation of the world". Here is a good summary by John MacArthur. "Faith is man's response to God's elective purpose. God's choice of men is election; men's choice of God is faith. In election God gives His promises, and by faith men receive them." [John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Ephesians*, page 33]

## II. Our Security in God the Holy Spirit (V13b, 14)

“Insecurity” is a horrible thing. Growth is severely hindered in an atmosphere of insecurity. In Christ, we have the perfect conditions for growth and coming to maturity. Our security falls under the responsibility or the office work of the Holy Spirit.

### A. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit (V13b)

Because of drastic changes in procedures and legal documents in our culture, we have to take some time to explain what being “sealed” means. We are told in verse 13 that those who have savingly believed in Jesus Christ for salvation have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Here is what a seal signifies.

#### 1. A Seal Signifies a Finished Transaction

The seal was not an animal that balanced a ball on his nose while making funny sounds. It was heated wax that was dripped on a legal document and then had an imprint placed in the hot wax that identified the one who was doing the sealing. When the document was sealed, the transaction was finished. When the Holy Spirit seals a person, that indicates that they are saved; it is not “up in the air” or in doubt.

#### 2. A Seal Signifies Ownership

When the Holy Spirit seals us, it is symbolic of the fact that we belong to God. **Isaiah 43:1b (NKJV)** “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; **You are Mine.**” Belonging to God puts us in a very secure position.

#### 3. A Seal Signifies Protection

A seal says, “No one can tamper with the thing sealed who does not have more authority than the one whose seal is attached”. Since God has all authority, no one has the authority to steal us from God. As one of our favorite songs says:

*No power of Hell, no scheme of man,  
Could ever pluck me from His hand.*

#### 4. A Seal Signifies Authenticity

Just as a signature on a letter or document says that it is genuine, the seal also says this item sealed is the real thing. The presence and working of the Holy Spirit in a persons life signifies that what they profess is real. **Romans 8:9b (NKJV)** “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

The seal says that we are secure. That is the atmosphere in which growth takes place.

### B. The Guarantee of the Holy Spirit (V14)

The Holy Spirit not only gives us security, He is also that guarantee that all that God has promised is indeed ours. That word “pledge” is translated “down Payment” (HCSB) and “deposit” (NIV). Probably the best comparison to today would be the “earnest” of our inheritance. When you want to buy something such as a house or any other product, and you have to make arrangements for the money, you can leave a part of the amount to insure the seller that you mean business so he will hold the item for you until the final price is paid. In time, our inheritance is still future, but God says, I am going to give you the Holy Spirit as earnest that the full inheritance will be yours in time. I know that heaven and all the delights of the full inheritance that God has laid up for me is secure and protected because God has given me His indwelling Spirit as a guarantee, a down payment, a deposit, as earnest that in time it will all be mine. When will that be? It will be when my redemption is complete and I will be glorified with a new body like unto Jesus’ resurrection body.

## CONCLUSION

All that God has done and given to us is for one purpose. It is those last 6 words in verse 14: “to the praise of His glory”. Hallelujah for a wonderful, secure, grace given inheritance from God the Father.