

OUR ETERNAL INHERITANCE

Ephesians 1:11-14

The Basis of Our Inheritance (1:11)

In Him = better placed at the beginning of verse eleven, separated by a comma.

In Him also = literally “in whom also” which connects back to “in Christ” in verse ten.

We have obtained an inheritance:

- “We” = the church, those who have been blessed “with every spiritual blessing” (1:3)
- Have obtained an inheritance = compare with Col. 1:12-124, 1Peter 1:3-5, Eph. 1:18
- Having been predestined = literally having been previously marked out or having been foreordained – same Greek word as in 1:5

According to His (God) purpose, “prothesis” in the Greek, that speaks of a deliberate act. This refers to the fact that our inheritance is according to God’s eternal plan for His people.

Who works all things after the council of His will

- Counsel (boule) = purpose, plan, determination, decree.
- “Boule” refers to a plan governed by reason, and intelligent deliberation.

The Goal of Our Inheritance (1:12)

To the end = i.e. the ultimate goal of our salvation that is we “should be to the praise of His glory.” – see 1:5-6, 14 & 1:15-17

“We” is contrasted with “you” in 1:13. Many suppose “we” refers to the Jewish converts who were the first to believe prior to the gospel being taken to the Gentiles.

- Some think it may even refer to the O.T. saints who hoped in the Messiah to come.
- It could also refer to the fact that Paul’s pattern of evangelizing a town was to first go to the Jews. – Acts 17:1-3
 - Paul in Ephesus – Acts 19:8-10

Hope in Christ – hope (proelipizo) = meaning to hope in advance

The Security of Our Inheritance (1:13-14)

In Him (13) = literally “in whom” referring to Christ.

After listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation = Rom. 10:9-17

- Gospel (euaggelion) = means good message, glad tidings. The same Greek word is translated “good news” in Luke 2:10.
 - The bad news – “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)

Having believed you were sealed = believing “the Message of truth” is the response of all who have been chosen.

- Having also believed = refers to the point of one’s conversion.
- At this point believers are sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.
- At the point of conversion we are also:
 - Indwelt with the Holy Spirit – 1Cor. 6:19-20
 - Baptized by the Holy Spirit – 1Cor. 12:13

Sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise:

- Sealed in Him = i.e. in Christ
- With the Holy Spirit = The Holy Spirit is our seal

A seal was is in scripture to signify:

- A finished transaction – Jer. 32:9-10
- Ownership – Jer. 32:11-12
- Security – Esther 8:8, Mat. 27:66, Eph. 4:30
 - The Holy Spirit is called, “The Spirit of Promise”

Pledge = a security deposit – The Holy Spirit as our “Pledge” guarantees our inheritance and our redemption. Compare with John 10:27-30

The Holy Spirit is that member of the Trinity who brings about our regeneration. See John 3:1-15, Titus 3:5-7