

Monstosity of praise part 3

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Ephesians / Praise / Ephesians 1:13–14

Title Monstosity of praise part 3

Introduction

Welcome again to the 3rd part o four sermon.

IN these difficult times its easy to become a self worshipper, or a world worshipper, but our passage reminds us to be a God worshipper, praising the Father for who He is and what he did, praising Jesus for his redemption and magnificent plans, and praising the HS for guaranteeing its fulfilment.

We live in uncertain times, yet this passage brings us certainty that what God has blessed us is true and will be accomplished.

In times of uncertainty , you need to come to Gods word, the solid rock of truth , for your heart to stand upon.

Paul writes form a Roman prison to the Church at Ephesus and the surrounding churches in uncertain times.

He opens the letter with a single sentence(202 words), the longest in the whole bible, Calling the believers to worship God.

Section 1 being vs 3-6 focuses on the blessings from God the Fathers blessings for the believer culminating in worship in vs 6

- God is to be praise because in Christ He is also your Father
- In Christ you are blessed with spiritual blessings in the heavenly places
- In Christ means that He had chosen you to be holy and chosen you for a destiny:
 - to be adopted as His son

- to eternal joy
- to worship him

Section 2 vs 7-12 focuses on the blessings from Jesus Christ for the believer culminating in worship vs 12

- You have the redemption defined as the forgiveness of sin, meaning you have been released from slavery to sin and from the legal obligation to pay for your violating Gods infinite moral standards.
- Gods grace provided not only redemption but also the unveiling of Gods over arching plan for the universe to unite all things in heaven and earth in Christ.
- God blessed you and I with an inheritance.

Section 3 vs 13-14 focuses on the blessings from the Holy Spirit Christ for the believer culminating in worship vs 14

- Which we will see how in Christ you have been sealed by the HS which serves as guarantee for you the believer of His future inheritance.

Read the text

Ephesians 1:13–14 ESV

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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Propositional statement

5 Truths explaining the sealing of believers that encourage worship

1. You were sealed when you hear Gods word
2. You were sealed when you believed
3. You were sealed by the Holy Spirit
4. you were sealed as a guarantee

5. You You were sealed until the full redemption

1. You were sealed when you hear Gods word

Ephesians 1:13 ESV

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,

Explanation

In him you also,

The greek would read : “in whom you also”

In him refers to Jesus Christ. and emphasises that being sealed is a reality for those who are in Christ.

If you are not in him, then your not in Jesus.

If your not in Jesus, you have not come to repentance and faith in the gospel and you were not sealed by the Holy Spirit.

But in this case Paul addresses true believers who are in Him. (He goes on to say

“You also”, implying a new thought, what about you....

You also were sealed.

When were you sealed?

when you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation

The grammar reveals simply that the event took place in which they had heard.

The term “heard” from the Greek means, “to hear with attention”, to listen

The OT used the term “Shema” which meant to hear, listen and to obey. (Twot) It implies effective listening, to pay attention to and to understand.

It also uses a term “Cashab” which means to listen attentively, to pay attention to be alert. All of these meanings feed in to the idea of hearing with attention.

The Bible tells us that the unbeliever hears the word but do not understand it, meaning they don't grasp the significance of it in their lives.

1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Paul uses the term (lemma) in Rom 10:14

Romans 10:14 ESV

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?

This does not mean that they had not audibly heard the gospel before that moment.

Paul is referring to the moment they heard and believed and were sealed and were saved and were placed into the body of Christ and were reconciled with God and were placed into His kingdom and were forgiven etc.... you get the point...the instant moment of salvation.

Paul goes on to explain what they heard: “the word”

He defines “the word” firstly in **substance**

- It's the word in which the truth is its very substance. (the word of truth)
 - It is the truth you can depend upon, It's the truths about the Christian teaching on salvation.

Paul defined it grammatically, by redefining “the word” as the gospel.

- Gospel originally meant a reward for good news, later it referred to the message itself.
- This is not any good news, but good news which has as its content salvation

Salvation refers to being delivered from your bondage to sin, the flesh and spiritual death.

Jesus's death and resurrection for your sins is what paves the way for you to be saved from sin and spiritual death.

- Saving faith in the gospel results in your salvation.

Jesus Christ death and resurrection for your sins, delivered you from the power, of sin, the penalty of sin and will in the future deliver you from the presence of sin.

The believers hear the word, which substance is the truth, the truth of the gospel, Christ substitutionary sacrifice for your sins which resulted in their salvation.

This is the word they heard.

In a postmodern world floating in uncertainty and relative truths, hearing God's word is critical for salvation.

All paths do not lead to Rome.

"All so called truths of this world" are not God's truth that saves you.

Every other belief system other than biblical Christianity is based upon human achievements for salvation.

Christianity alone is based upon divine accomplishment, what Jesus did on Calvary.

1 Corinthians 1:21 ESV

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

There is only one message that will save you, that is the gospel.

Application

- Because God's word is truth it provides you with confidence and certainty .
 - What you read in God's word reveals is a direct reflection of God's truth communicated to man.
 - Since God of truth, His word is truth, and you can trust it. (just another reason to praise Him)

John 17:17 ESV

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- There is no breakdown in communication between you and God.
- Because His word is truth, therefore it contains the true gospel of salvation.
- There is no other way to be saved, stop looking for other ways.
- Doing so means your declaring God to be false, His word to be false, and that you are god of your own salvation.
- The implications are eternal, the cost horrendous, what awaits is an eternity of fire and brimstone in agony for the unrepentant soul.
- You cannot afford to ignore Jesus and the gospel.

2. You were sealed when you believed

Ephesians 1:13 ESV

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,

and believed in him,

The grammar implies once again that the event took place in which they believed.

Hearing the gospel is not enough to save you.

You also need to believe in it.

The term believed means to trust in, to entrust oneself in.

You need to trust upon the gospel, entrusting yourself in Christ completed work on the cross.

True saving faith is a gift from God. Eph 2:8-9

True saving faith will result in good works, not the means to be saved but the fruit of it.

James 2:17–18 ESV

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Illustration

The Bible illustrated this with Abraham who was declared righteous in Gen 15:6, but his works some years later in offering up Isaac, in Gen 22 were the works proving that he had true saving faith.

True Saving faith is an ongoing reality for believers John 3:16

Paul taught that certain events happened instantaneously when Ephesians believers when they were sealed:

1. They had **heard** the the word
2. They had **believed** it.

At that **precise moment** they were **sealed**.

Illustration

Scientist refer to it as zero signal time, one event happens with zero time between the next event happening.

Even though in timing they happen instantaneously at the point of salvation, theologically, hearing the gospel and believing is the prerequisite to being sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Application

1. If you want to be saved,:
 - a. you must acknowledge that you are a sinner.
 - b. you must understand that nothing you can do will save you.
 - c. you must therefore turn away from trusting in yourself, from your sinful manner of life and turn to Jesus, this is repentance
 - d. You must trust in another, in Jesus CHrist and what he did by dying on the cross for your sins.
 - e. YOu must weigh up the cost, knowing that CHrist calls you to a life of being a disciple, in which He is Lord
 - f. a life of suffering and even persecution.
 - g. a life of trusting and obeying him
 - h. a life that leads ultimately to being with Him for eternity.

2. Pray and ask God to give to show you mercy , and gift you with the gifts of repentance and faith.
3. God is the only one who can reach out, and open the ears of your heart to hear the gospel, to understand its significance and bless you with saving faith instantaneously sealing you as His Child.

3. You were sealed by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13 ESV

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,

were sealed

Paul refers here to the official mark of identification that was placed upon important documents.

A seal was made of wax, placed upon the document and impressed with a signet ring.

Some of you may recall the red wax we used to use in sealing a package we use to send. Or the seal you get upon an important document like your degree certificate.

This served to identify the author, it also implied the authority of the one to whom the signet ring belonged too.

In the Bible revealed 4 primary things a seal implied.

security, authenticity, ownership, authority

In the OT being sealed signified:

1. **security**- like protecting something . King Darius placed his seal on the stone covering the lions den with Daniel. Any person breaking the seal would have forfeited their lives. Jesus tomb was sealed in the same way. (MacArthur)

Daniel 6:17 ESV

And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

The Sealing by the HS in a infinitely greater way secures the believer for the day of redemption

Ephesians 4:30 ESV

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2. **authentication**- confirming that a letter was sent by someone. When Ahab wanted to obtain Naboth vinyard, Jezebel sent a letter to the elder with false accusation instructing them to kill him.

1 Kings 21:8 ESV

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city.

The nobels followed the instructions and stoned Naboth. Despite the deception, the point I am making is that the letters were sent with the kings signature seal, implying, they authentically came from the king with His full approval.

The sealing of the HS means authenticates you as a genuine citizens of Christ kingdom, His child, genuinely His.

3. **Ownership**, when Jerusalem was under siege by the the Assyrians, Jeremiah purchased some land. The deed was signed and sealed which proved that Jeremiah was the legal property owner.

Jeremiah 32:10 ESV

¹⁰ I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

The HS marks us as owned by God, we are His property.

2 Corinthians 1:22 ESV

²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

4. Authority

King Ahasuerus issued a decree allowing the Jews to protect themselves against those who wanted to kill the Jews.

Esther 8:8 ESV

⁸ But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

Those who had the sealed decree also had the delegated authority to act upon that authority.

Christians sealed with the HS, are Christians delegated to act like believers, proclaim the gospel, and defend the gospel with the authority of God.

What is this seal?

with the promised Holy Spirit,

The grammar tells us that the HS is both the instrument of sealing you as well as the seal itself.

In the near context, the HS is described as being the guarantee, implying He is the security for the believers inheritance in Christ.

Also Paul states in Eph 4:30

Ephesians 4:30 ESV

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Paul in Romans states that the reality of the indwelling HS proves, that we are owned by CHrist

Romans 8:9 ESV

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.

2 Corinthians 1:22 ESV

and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Based upon this I believe the HS is the seal, implying you are protected by God, owned by God, authenticates you as his and act under His authority.

Application

1. Believers are not commanded to seek the sealing or to work for it.
2. Believers are assumed to be sealed at salvation.
3. This truth should simply cal you to marvel at God and praise him for what he has done.

4. This truth should however also give your heart a sense of certainty and sureness as the next point reveals.

4. You were sealed as a guarantee

Ephesians 1:14 ESV

who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

who is the guarantee of our inheritance

Who refers to the HS mentioned in vs 13.

The term guarantee comes from a Gk term meaning an advance payment of a purchase price.

A down payment, pledge, a deposit, a first instalment, earnest money
a partial payment made at the time with the balance paid later.

It is an act that binds the payer to something bigger.

The sealing of the believer is the deposit, the initial instalment of the believers future inheritance.

The HS serves as a guarantee that believers will receive the full salvation God promised them later

2 Corinthians 5:5 ESV

He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Paul explains in 2 cor 5:5 that the indwelling HS serves as a guarantee of putting on our the future heavenly dwelling which at least includes the glorified body, and being in our heavenly homes with God.

Illustrations

In the OT Judah gave his signet ring and his staff as pledge to Tamar as proof that he would later her a goat as payment for sleeping with her.

Genesis 38:17 ESV

¹⁷ He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it—"

The inheritance refers to the full and final benefits of salvation, the full and complete participation of life in God in the final state(exegetical sum)

This would include:

1. full eternal fellowship with God and other glorified saints 1 John 1:3
2. eternal joy of being in Gods presence Ps 16:11
3. resurrection Rom 8:20-23
4. glorified bodies 2 Cor 5:4-5
5. living in the place God prepared for you John 14:2
6. Living in a state where there is no sin, no death no pain. Rev 21:4

Application

1. The sealing by the H gives you certainty that God will fulfill his promises
2. that you are protected by an omnipoetent God, that your salvation is protected
3. and that you will ultimately be resurrected, receive your glorified body.
4. It provides the impeccable warranty, that God will do what He promised.

5. You were sealed until the full redemption

until we acquire possession of it,

I would like to share several translations with you to make the point.

Ephesians 1:14 ESV

who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:14 NASB95

who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:14 KJV 1900

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Directly translation would read:

who is a pledge)(of our inheritance)(into redemption)(**of possession**)(into praise)(of his glory)

The NASB is better than the ESV, but the KJV here is the best

The ESV leaves out redemption, but implies that believers *acquires the possession of the inheritance*

The NASB adds God implying that the redemption leads to you being Gods possession

The KJV is the closest which appears as if Paul speaks objectively of these truths.

1. You were sealed by the HS vs 3
2. Who is the pledge, the down payment of our full inheritance
3. until the full redemption (released from the presence of sin)
4. of the purchase possession(referring to the believers)

I believe “into the redemption of possession” modifies the immediate preceding statement giving us a sense of timing.

The HS is the pledge until the full redemption happens .

The term redemption means to be released from a captive condition, release, deliverance, full redemption.

The redemption refers here to another phase of redemption, the redemption of the believer in the final state, (after you died)

Phase 1 is when Christ died, releasing you from your bondage to sin and the debt you owed God, being set free from the penalty and the power of sin.

This future phase of redemption, (the full redemption) is when you will be set free from the presence of sin with all its temptations, when you set free from the effects of the fall.

of possession, implies ownership

You and I do not immediately at salvation receive the fullness of all Gods promises.

You don't receive the glorified body, the release from the presence of sin, your full inheritance.

That awaits you in the future.

So when you are saved the HS comes and lives in you, empowering, you equipping you, convicting you but also guaranteeing your inheritance in Christ, until you possess it.

You not only will possess an eternal inheritance in the future, you are already God's possession.

1 Peter 2:9 ESV

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

to the praise of his glory.

Paul ends this monster sentence with the final goal,

The aim of being sealed ultimately is to praise God and give him glory.

Paul started with the statement blessed be God, or praise God and concludes it with "to the praise of His glory.

Because God blessed you with all these spiritual blessings:

His selection of you

His destiny for you

His redemption for you

His unveiled plan for you

His sealing of you

all cause your in Christ

Respond in worshipping Him.

Application

1. God's ultimate plan in saving you is for His own glory.

2. As you think about the certainty that Gods sealing by the HS provides, as you think about the tremendous truths in this sentence, will you rob God of the praise and worship He deserves.
3. Will you still continue in being so self absorbed in you, in worshipping you in seeking your comforts from the world, or will you bend your knees to God thanking Him an praising Him for what he has done for you.
4. This truth also should give you certainty and sureness your whole life time in this world of uncertainty until ultimately you obtain your inheritance, your glorified bodies and enjoy the privilege of worshipping God with millions of saved people and other heavenly beings

Conclusion

5 Truths explaining the sealing of believers that encourage worship

1. You were sealed when you hear Gods word, specifically when you heard the gospel
2. You were sealed when you believed, a gift of God, evidenced by works
3. You were sealed by the Holy Spirit implying security, authenticity, ownership, authority
4. you were sealed as a guarantee serving as security ,providing certainty of Gods promised future inheritance for you.
5. You You were sealed until the full redemption, implying you have this security your whole life time.

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