

Ephesians 1:11-14

Lesson 6 – God’s Inheritance

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1

Eph 1:11-12 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

NKJV

2

Another Translation

Eph 1:11-13 In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, would be to the praise of his glory.

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3

Eph 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance NKJV

4

Warren Wiersbe says:

“The King James Version reads, ‘In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,’ but ‘in whom also we were made an inheritance’ is also a possible translation. Both are true and the one includes the other. In Christ we have a wonderful inheritance (1 Peter 1:1) and in Christ we are an inheritance. We are valuable to Him. Think of the price God paid to purchase us and make us part of His inheritance!”

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5

Joseph Dillow says:

“We have been ‘*claimed as God’s own possession*’ since we were predestined to this privilege. The Greek could be translated, ‘*we were made a heritage.*’ We have been predestined to become God’s heritage, it is certain that we will, in the final outcome of things, be His heritage.”

Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny – The Future Reign of the Servant Kings*, page 752

6

Eph 1:11 being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, NKJV

7

Harold Hoehner on Predestination says:

“Cremer notes that the primary interest is not the *who* but to *what* is one predestined. Although the action of the verb precedes history, the *who* belongs to history and the *what* talks about the eternal future. In conclusion, it means that one’s destiny is predetermined.”

Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians, An Exegetical Commentary*, published by Baker Academic, page 4418, electronic version.

8

PREDESTINATION

“Divine predestination means that God has a purpose that is determined long before it is brought to pass. It implies that God is infinitely capable of planning and then bringing about what he has planned, and Scripture speaks of him as doing this (Isa 14:24-27; 22:11; 37:26; 44:7-8; 46:8-10). Prophecy in its predictive mode is to be understood accordingly.”

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9

Wiersbe again:

“Here we meet that misunderstood word predestination. This word, as it is used in the Bible, refers primarily to what God does for saved people. Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that people are predestined to hell, because this word refers only to God's people. The word simply means ‘to ordain beforehand, to predetermine.’ Election seems to refer to people, while predestination refers to purposes. The events connected with the crucifixion of Christ were predestined (Acts 4:25-28). God has predestined our adoption (Eph 1:5), and our conformity to Christ (Rom 8:29-30), as well as our future inheritance (Eph 1:11).”

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10

PREDESTINATION

“This word is properly used only with reference to God's plan or purpose of salvation. The Greek word rendered "predestinate" is found only in these six passages, Acts 4:28; Rom 8:29,30; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5,11; and in all of them it has the same meaning. They teach that the eternal, sovereign, immutable, and unconditional decree or "determinate purpose" of God governs all events.”

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11

We or it has been predestined:

- **The six passages containing “predestined”:**
- **The crucifixion of Christ (Acts 4:38)**
- **To adoption (Ephesians 1:5)**
- **To be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29,30)**
- **To obtain an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)**
- **To know the hidden wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:7)**

12

Eph 1:11 being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, NKJV

13

Constable discusses “according to the counsel of His will:”

“This verse contains one of the strongest statements in Scripture that God is sovereign (cf. Ps 115:3; Prov 16:9,33; Dan 4:34-35). God is sovereign over “all things”: “according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.” This includes the election of some people to salvation. “Purpose” (Gr. prothesin) refers to the goal God intends to accomplish. “Counsel” (Gr. boule) refers to God’s wise purposeful planning or deliberation. “Will” (Gr. thelema) denotes willingness. The idea contained in this verse is that God chose a plan after deliberating on the wisest course of action to accomplish his purpose.”

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14

Sovereignty of God

- **Ps 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.** NASU
- **Prov 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.** NASU
- **Prov 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.** NASU

15

Nebuchadnezzar learned this

Dan 4:30-33 “The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’ “While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’ NASU

16

Nebuchadnezzar learned this

Dan 4:34-35 “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’ NASU

17

The Nations in God’s Eyes

Isa 40:15-17 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. NASU

18

A Mystery

“How does God carry out His plan? He accomplishes some things directly and exclusively—Himself—without using other agents. He accomplishes other purposes through the agency of others, secondary causes, which include angels and humans. Unquestionably God is absolutely sovereign (i.e., the ultimate authority over all things).

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19

A Mystery

How He carries out His plans—working with secondary causes, giving people freedom to choose, and then justly holding them responsible for their choices—is difficult to understand and explain. I believe the solution to this puzzle lies beyond the ability of human beings to understand and explain fully. However, Scripture clearly teaches both divine sovereignty and human responsibility.”

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20

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

“The story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation is possible only because the sovereign God loves the created world, fallen though it is, and is able to do something about it. Without the sovereign love of the Father ministered to us through the Son and the Holy Spirit, there would be no real human freedom and no hope of everlasting life.”

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

21

- **Eph 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.**
NKJV
- **Has reference either to the fact that the Jews first trusted in Jesus or that Paul and the other apostles first trusted.**
- **Could have reference to the fact that when in the next verse it says “you also trusted” that the Gentiles were brought into God’s plan.**

22

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, NKJV

23

Notice the Sequence

- **You heard the “word of truth” concerning the Gospel**
 - **“Christ died for our sins and rose from the grave.” See 1 Cor 15:1-8**
- **You trusted in Him, Jesus Christ**
- **Having trusted (believed = pisteuo), you were sealed with the Holy Spirit**
- **It is a done deal!**

24

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, NKJV

25

**“Sealed”
Three Times in the New Testament**

- **Eph 1:13-14 you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, NKJV**
- **2 Cor 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. NKJV**
- **Eph 4:30-31 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. NKJV**

26

The Promise of Jesus

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. NKJV

27

Joseph Dillow explains the seal

“The ancient practice of using seals is behind the figurative use of the word here. A seal was a mark of protection and ownership. The Greek word *sphragizō* is used of a stone being fastened with a seal to “prevent its being moved from a position.” In fact, this was apparently the earliest method of distinguishing one’s property. The seal was engraved with a design or mark distinctive to the owner. The seal of ownership or protection was often made in soft wax with a signet ring. An impression was left on the wax signifying the owner of the thing sealed.”

Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny – The Future Reign of the Servant Kings*, page 768

28



shepherdthoughts.com

29

Dillow continues

When the Holy Spirit seals us, He presses the signet ring of our heavenly Father on our hearts of wax and leaves the mark of ownership. We belong to Him. He certifies this by His unchangeable purpose to protect and own us to the day of redemption.”

Joseph Dillow, Final Destiny – The Future Reign of the Servant Kings, page 768

30

Dillow finally

“In Ephesians 1:13-14 we are told that the Holy Spirit Himself is the seal. He is impressed upon us, so to speak. His presence in our lives is thus a guarantee of God’s protection and that we are owned by God. A broken seal was an indication that the person had not been protected. The Holy Spirit cannot be broken. He is the seal of ownership.”

Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny – The Future Reign of the Servant Kings*, page 768

31

Dillow finally

In Ephesians 4:30 we are told that we are sealed *unto the day of redemption*. This sealing ministry of the Spirit is forever and guarantees that we will arrive safely for the redemption of our bodies and entrance into heaven (Romans 8:23). He is the seal that we are now owned and protected by God until the day of redemption.”

• Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny – The Future Reign of the Servant Kings*, page 768

32

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. NKJV

33

Another Version

Eph 1:13-14 Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory. NIV

34

Warren Wiersbe says:

“He has given us an earnest. Earnest is a fascinating word! In Paul's day, it meant ‘the down payment to guarantee the final purchase of some commodity or piece of property.’ Even today you will hear a real estate agent talk about earnest money. The Holy Spirit is God's first installment to guarantee to His children that He will finish His work and eventually bring them to glory. The ‘redemption of the purchased possession’ refers to the redemption of the body at the return of Christ (Rom 8:18-23; 1 John 3:1-3).”

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35

Life Application Study Bible

“The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that we belong to him and that he will do what he has promised. The Holy Spirit is like a down payment, a deposit, a validating signature on the contract. The presence of the Holy Spirit in us demonstrates the genuineness of our faith, proves that we are God's children, and secures eternal life for us. His power works in us to transform us now, and what we experience now is a taste of the total change we will experience in eternity.”

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36

The Truth

- **We are God's inheritance (possession)**
- **God planned all this and controls everything**
- **Our salvation is based on our trust in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection**
- **He has indwelt and sealed us with the Holy Spirit**
- **The Holy Spirit is our guarantee we will make it to the end**
 - **2 Tim 1:12 for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. NKJV**