

# Signed, Sealed and Delivered

## Ephesians 1:13-14

### Introduction

#### I How To Be "In Christ"

- A. Hear the Word - Jn 5:24; Rom 10:14-15, 17
  - 1. The Word of truth - Eph 4:21; Col 1:5
  - 2. The gospel of salvation - Rom 1:16-17
- B. Believe the Word - Rom 2:13; Acts 28:26-27
  - 1. One believes the gospel - Rom 10:9-10; Jn 1:12
  - 2. One becomes a child of God - Gal 3:26-27; 4:6-7

#### II God's Seal On The Deal

- A. The purpose of a seal
  - 1. To guarantee authenticity - Ester 3:12; 1 Cor 9:2
  - 2. To protect against tampering - Mt 27:66; Rev 5:1
  - 3. To mark ownership - Song 8:6
- B. The Holy Spirit as our seal
  - 1. He guarantees our authenticity - Ro 8:16; Gal 4:6
  - 2. He protects us from tampering - Ro 8:14; Eph 3:16
  - 3. He marks us as belonging to God - 1 Co 6:19-20; 2 Cor 1:21-22
- C. The Holy Spirit as our guarantee

**Deposit** = "A pledge or downpayment accompanied by a promise that the balance will be paid in full"

  - 1. Of our inheritance - 2 Co 1:22; 5:1-5
  - 2. Until the redemption of God's possession
    - a. We have been redeemed - Eph 1:7
    - b. We will be redeemed - Eph 4:30

#### III How To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

- A. We already have the Holy Spirit - Rom 8:9
- B. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit - Eph 5:18

- C. We have a part in being filled with the Holy Spirit:
  - 1. Obedience - 1 Jn 3:24; Jn 14:21; Acts 5:32
  - 2. Surrender - Josh 24:23; Rom 12:1; 1 Cor 6:19-20;
  - 3. Desire - Lk 11:9-13

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Paul emphasizes repeatedly that all our spiritual blessings are found "in Christ". Share briefly what it personally means to you, to be "in Christ".
2. Ephesians 1:13 indicates that there are two essential factors in someone becoming a Christian: *hearing* the Word and *believing* the Word. Take a moment to discuss these two components and their roles in evangelism. Are you active in sharing your faith?
3. Paul tells us that God has set His seal of ownership on your life. This means two things have occurred:
  - a. You have surrendered your rights to your life.
  - b. You are guaranteed the rights and privileges as God's child. Does your life reflect the understanding that you are "not your own" but belong to God? Are you available to God? Are you keeping in step with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:25)?
4. Take a moment to discuss how making a down payment on a house is like God depositing His Spirit in our hearts. He's committed to finishing His part of the deal. What are your obligations and are you fulfilling them?
5. Read Ephesians 5:18. What conditions do you need to meet in order to respond appropriately to this command (obedience, surrender, desire)?
6. Pray for a wholehearted surrender to, and renewal of, the Holy Spirit's work in your life. Thank Him for the spiritual deposit and guaranteed promises He is committed to fulfilling.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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