

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 22

Keeper (Sealed by the Spirit)

Keeper (Sealed by the Spirit)

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective To show the students that those who are in Christ are sealed by the Spirit, so that we can never fall away from His grace or lose our salvation.

Key Verses

Ephesians 1:13-14

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

1 John 4:4

Memory Verse - Galatians 5:16 (December Memory Verse)

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Hook

Take the envelopes provided on the cart and give one to each student. On the slips of paper provided write each student's name. Have all of the students place their name inside the envelope and then lick and seal the envelope.

Point out to the students that their names are now safe and protected inside. Show them that on the front of the envelope the word "Saved" is written, and on the back, where the envelope seals, are the words "Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit seals us and keeps us for the coming day of the Lord.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In both Ephesians chapter 1 and 2 Corinthians chapter 1 we are shown the imagery of being sealed with the Holy Spirit. In Corinthians we are told that it is given to us “as a guarantee,” and in Ephesians that is further explained as “the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.”

The Holy Spirit is a gift given to the believer in Christ. He, the Holy Spirit, takes up residence inside our hearts, and in doing so sets His seal on us. It is because of this we can boldly claim “Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.” - 1 John 4:4

Being sealed is another way of saying guarded and kept safe. In John 17 Jesus tells us that He has kept all of the believers that the Father placed into His hand. If we are sealed, then we are promised that we will be carried safely through this world, and see life in the next.

The Holy Spirit is a guarantee for the believer. Like a form of collateral, He has been left with us until the return of the King who will come and claim His possessions.

Being sealed by the Spirit is a promise for all believers, showing that the Lord will keep us and watch over us until His return.

LOOK

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

For those people who have trusted Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior, there are some particularly wonderful promises in the Bible. We are told that if we have repented of our sins, then one day, we will live in a New Heaven and a New Earth, filled with joy, light and life. We are told that if we have trusted Jesus then He will help us to make wise choices every day. We are also told that if we are believers, then the Holy Spirit Himself will come and live inside our hearts and *seal* us.

This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is going to turn us into seals so that we can swim in the ocean very fast. No, it means that the Holy Spirit is going to place His name on us like a stamp.

Have you ever written your name on something you own to show everybody else that object belongs to you? You might have books, or toys, or even clothes that have your name on them. Well that is what we mean when the Holy Spirit puts His seal on us. He has written Jesus name on our lives to show everyone else that we belong to Him.

This means that nothing else can come and try and take ownership of our lives, because we already have Jesus name written on us, and the Holy

LOOK (Continued)

Spirit living in us.

Why does the Holy Spirit come and live inside us? Have you ever put something that you own down and asked someone to take care of it for you until you get back? That is what the Holy Spirit is doing for Jesus. Jesus owns us. He bought us with His sacrifice on the cross, He paid for us with His own blood. However Jesus has gone to be with Father in Heaven and has left us down here on Earth. When He left Jesus asked the Holy Spirit to watch out for us until He returns to take us to be with Him forever.

It is important to know that if you have given your life to Jesus, and accepted the promise of eternal life, you can never, ever lose that promise. Jesus said that He would not lose a single person that gave their lives to Him, and He gave us the Holy Spirit to make sure that would be true forever.

How amazing to think that we are kept safe and secure, whilst also being indwelt (lived in) by the Holy Spirit; God Himself.

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class how we know that we belong to Jesus.

Pray: Thank the Lord for sealing those who believe in Him. Praise Him for the gift and guarantee of the Holy Spirit who lives inside us. Ask Him to come quickly, so that we might go and be with Him in Heaven.

Parent Question: Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Ephesians 1 and 2 Corinthians 1 By David Guzik

(9-12) The mystery of His will.

Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him. 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.

a. **Having made known to us the mystery of His will:** Part of what belongs to us under the *riches of His grace* is the knowledge of **the mystery of His will**, God's great plan and purpose which was once hidden but is now revealed to us in Jesus. Through the Apostle Paul, God called us to consider the greatness of God's great plan for the ages and our place in that plan.

i. "In the New Testament sense a mystery is something which is hidden to the heathen but clear to the Christian." (Barclay)

ii. The idea behind the word **dispensation** also reflects a plan or a strategy. "The plan which the master of a family, or his steward, has established for the management of the family . . . it signifies, also, a plan for the management of any sort of business." (Clarke)

b. **That . . . He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him:** God's ultimate plan is to bring together - to ultimately resolve - all things in Christ, either through Jesus as a Savior or Jesus as a Judge; this will happen in the **fullness of the times**.

i. The word for **gather together** has the idea of "to unite" or "to sum up." It was used for the process of adding up a column of figures and putting the sum up at the top. Paul's idea is that God will make all things "add up" at the end, and right now He is in the process of coming to that final sum.

ii. This shows that God wants to unify all things in our lives under Him. "It is a heresy of our times to divide life into sacred and secular." (Foulkes)

iii. This is the great resolution and deliverance that even the creation groans for (Romans 8:18-22), the day when every wrong will be righted and every matter resolved according to God's holy love and justice.

iv. Bruce on **the fullness of the times**: "When the time is ripe for the consummation of his purpose, in his providential overruling of the course of the world, that consummation will be realized."

c. **In Him also we have obtained an inheritance:** For believers, Jesus is not a judge, but the One in whom we have an inheritance. Believers are predestined for this according to the **counsel of His will** - again, the reasons for His choosing reside in Him, not in us.

d. **Being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will:** We see three aspects of God's plan working together. It begins with His **purpose**, then the **counsel of His will**, and finally results in His **work**. God made His plan carefully according to an eternal purpose, taking **counsel** within the God-head, and then He works with all wisdom.

i. "Our God is a God who not only wills; He works; and He works according to His will . . . The word *counsel* stands for deliberate planning and arranging, in which the ways and means of carrying out the will are considered and provided

for." (Morgan)

ii. **By the counsel of His will:** "God doth all by counsel, and ever hath a reason of his will, which though we see not for present, we shall at last day. Meanwhile submit." (Trapp)

e. **That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory:** God's purpose in all this is so that those who have trusted Christ will exist **to the praise of His glory**. The goal of God's ultimate plan is to glorify Him.

f. **We who first trusted in Christ:** This speaks of Jewish believers. The words *you also* in Ephesians 1:13 speak of Gentile believers. God's great plan has a place for both Jew and Gentile, and it brings them both together in Jesus.

4. (13-14) The work of the Holy Spirit.

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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

a. **In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth:** God's sovereign choice works, but it does not exclude human cooperation. These ones who were so sovereignly chosen were also the ones who **trusted, heard the word of truth, and believed**.

b. **You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise:** Also essential in God's work is the sealing work of the Holy Spirit. His presence in our lives acts as a seal which indicates ownership, and which is a **guarantee of our inheritance**.

i. "The seal is therefore the Holy Spirit Himself, and His presence in the believer denotes ownership and security. The sealing with the Spirit is not an emotional feeling or some mysterious inward experience." (Gaebelein)

ii. The word **guarantee** ("down payment") is used only in the New Testament of the Holy Spirit. He is our *only* down payment of coming glory; nothing else is provided - or *needed*.

c. **Having believed, you were sealed:** The sealing does not come *before* we believe, and those who demand some assurance from God before they will believe treat God as if His word could not be trusted.

i. "For sealing there are needed the softened wax; the imprint of the beloved face; the steady pressure. Would that the Spirit might impress the face of our dear Lord on our softened hearts, that they may keep it for evermore!" (Meyer)

d. **Until the redemption of the purchased possession:** We have this **guarantee** until we are "completely purchased" by God through resurrection and glorification - again, all to the **praise of His glory**.

2 Corinthians 1

4. (19-22) Paul knew their accusations were wrong based on spiritual reasons.

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us; by me, Silvanus, and Timothy; was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 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.

a. **Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us . . . was not Yes and No:** Paul preached a Jesus who is completely reliable and worthy of trust. It wasn't right for the apostle of such a faithful Savior to be so quickly considered unreliable and untrustworthy.

i. Paul alludes to an important principle: The message affects the messenger. Paul could not so sincerely and so strongly preach a Jesus who is **not Yes and No** and be untouched by that Jesus. Understanding this should have made the Corinthian Christians more trusting towards Paul.

b. **For all the promises of God in Him are Yes and in Him Amen:** Can we imagine God the Father ever saying "no" to God the Son? God the Father will always say **Yes** to the Son and will always affirm what the Son says (**Amen**).

i. "We might never have had this precious verse if Paul had not been so ill-treated by these men of Corinth. They did him great wrong, and caused him much sorrow of heart . . . yet you see how the evil was overruled by God for good, and through their unsavoury gossip and slander this sweet sentence was pressed out of Paul." (Spurgeon)

c. **He who establishes us . . . and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit:** Paul and his associates were commissioned by God and filled with the Holy Spirit. Understanding this should have made the Corinthian Christians reject hasty and unfounded accusations against Paul.

d. **Anointed us . . . sealed us . . . a guarantee:** Paul refers to three aspects of the Holy Spirit's work within us.

i. **Has anointed us:** The only other place where the New Testament speaks about *anointing* is in 1 John 2:20 and 2:27. Every use speaks of an anointing that is common to all believers, not a special anointing for a few Christian superstars. The idea behind **anointed** is that we are prepared and empowered for service. The fact that we are **anointed** means that we share something with the Old Testament prophets, priests, and kings who were also **anointed** ones.

ii. **Sealed us:** In the ancient world, a seal was used to *identify* and to *protect*. If something was **sealed**, everyone knew who it belonged to (the seal had an insignia), and the seal prevented anyone else from tampering with the item. The Holy Spirit is upon us to *identify* us and to *protect* us.

iii. **A guarantee:** The word **guarantee** is the word for a down payment. We have been given the Holy Spirit as a down payment for the fullness of what God will do. The Holy Spirit is a pledge of greater things to come. As Christians, God has purchased us on the lay-away plan and has given us an impressive down payment. He won't walk away from the final payment because He has so much invested already.