

Divine Promises Guaranteed
(Ephesians 1:11-14)

I. The Ground of our Inheritance

- A. It happened, first of all, because God predetermined it.
 - 1. Verse 4... "He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world."
 - 2. Verse 11... "Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."
 - 3. The word worketh in the original is the word from which we get energetic or energize or energy.
 - 4. Whatever God plans... God energizes.
 - a. God works out what God plans.
 - b. Nothing can change it.
- B. But what about the human side?
 - 1. The human part of it is that we had to place our hope in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Verse 13 says... "In whom you also trusted after you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also afterward ye believed."
- C. You say... "But how could God choose and we believe and they both exist at the same time?"
 - 1. Don't worry about how you resolve it.
 - 2. Just know this; God gets all the credit, but you must respond in faith.
 - 3. Let God harmonize it, it's too big a problem for me.
- D. So, it has two elements this ground of our inheritance.
 - 1. It means being in Christ; from God's standpoint predestination...
 - 2. From ours... personal faith.

II. The Guarantee.

- A. Verse 13... "You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..."
- B. The seal was used by princes and kings and nobles in the time of the Bible was a sign of security.
 - 1. When you became a Christian God stamped His signet which is the Holy Spirit and said, "This is secure."
 - 2. No one can ever touch this life unless he be a higher authority than Almighty God.
- C. The seal is a mark of authenticity.
 - 1. Only an authentic Christian possesses the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. He is sealed with a mark of authenticity.
- D. Third, it's also used in the Bible as a sign of completed transaction.
- E. Last, it's a mark of authority.

III. The Goal of inheritance.

- A. God wants to be glorified through you.
- B. We're not Christians for our own glory.,
- C. What He has done for us is to the praise of His glory.
- D. Verse 14, "The Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession."
- E. The word earnest in the original means two things...
 - 1. One... it means down payment,
 - 2. Two... It means, engagement ring.
- F. The Bible says there's going to be a marriage supper.
 - 1. Christ is the bride groom,
 - 2. The church is the bride.
 - 3. How do you know that wedding's going to happen?
 - 4. Because He gave me an engagement ring.

IV. Conclusion

- A. God is saying... "Hey, I've got a promise of an inheritance for you.
- B. And the Spirit lives within us to constantly confirm to us that we're the sons of God who are in the process of seeing the fulfillment of all the promises of God.
- C. It all comes to the praise of His glory.