

Ephesians 1:11-14
The Inheritance of Salvation

We find ourselves coming back into Ephesians 1 and this is a section that really does stand out from a lot of other sections that Paul has written and that you can find in the entire New Testament. A section that we could really say is just loaded, it's packed, it is replete with these theologically deep statements and just such knowledge that is so wonderful to consider the wisdom of God and the salvation plan that has really been unfolding before us as we have walked through it.

In one sense you could say, just considering what we have covered, that's sufficient for us to be fully motivated to live lives of worship, to live lives fully committed to our Savior, lives where we lay down ourselves and we surrender to God and we say, "have your way in me, because of who you are, because of what you have done, Lord use me. Have your way in me." Think of how we have talked about the work of salvation in eternity past. How before the foundation of the world even, God being at work and establishing this plan out of love, predestining us to be adopted into His family, choosing us to be holy and righteous and then moving forward and seeing that plan from eternity past come to fruition as He creates, as He moves along and interacts with mankind. Ultimately being revealed with the second Adam, the son of man, His own Son, Jesus coming to this earth and fully and perfectly accomplishing the work He was sent to do bringing redemption, buying us out of that slave market because of His blood that has been shed on our behalf and our sin. Because of also forgiveness that He accomplished when He went to the cross and doing away with all of our sin. We just simply think on these truths and we realize, "wow there is so much here that I can already walk and consider the mercies of God and consider the salvation plan and live a life of worship."

But it's as if we come to this point and we hear someone saying, "there is still more, even yet there is more, and that is not all, there is still more." It's the encore that is just absolutely fitting and perfect when we think of what God has done in the past, what He accomplished in Christ as Paul is even experiencing it in the present, and we get to see the joys of looking ahead. We get to look to the future in verses 11 through 14 we turn our attention to what will come. We look ahead to see how salvation will continue to unfold

and really how it will be fully realized in that future day. And the spiritual blessings that we have even considering the future of this work that God is doing. So it's loaded and hopefully as it was for Paul it will be for us. An opportunity to praise God. A way to assess our own worship. A time where we can come before God and lay our heart on the table and say, "God if there is anything in me that is still holding back, or is still walking in the path of sin," that we can get rid of it. We can come surrendered as we overflow with the joy that comes from such spiritual blessings that we have received as we see in this passage.

So let's turn our attention to this future element of our salvation as we are going to see in Ephesians 1. Let's read verses 11-14, "11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

What we have happening in our passage this morning is this future look into our salvation and really it comes to us from two perspectives, from two vantage points if we can. In the first half, verses 11 and 12, we are going to see a future element of our salvation from God's perspective, we are going to see how salvation is unfolding and how God is accomplishing it and even actively apart of it and in the future as God takes part in Him having even an inheritance. And then in verses 13-14, we will shift the perspective and we will see our perspective, the perspective of the believer, and what we can anticipate, and look forward to and be confident in as far as the future unfolding of our salvation.

So let's begin with the first two verses here and this is where we find 11-12 "God's inheritance of the saints" - "God's inheritance of the saints." This is where Paul starts by showing us the result of salvation from God's vantage point. From God's standpoint, He inherits the saints. And that's what we begin to see just in the beginning of verse 11. We see the people of God's inheritance. The people of God's inheritance. That would be people like you and I, people who have been saved.

Now you might be thinking of these fill-ins and then as you look back down at verse 11 and you look at your Bible, you might think, “this doesn't seem to match up perfectly” just look at that first phrase there in verse 11, “In him we have obtained an inheritance.” When you read a simple phrase like that you think “in Him we get something, in Him we get an inheritance, in Him we have obtained, we have now actually received this portion, this blessing, this inheritance of some sort.” And really when you look at major English translations that's what you've got. In the ESV it says that. In the NASB it says “also we have obtained an inheritance,” sounds like the saints have obtained an inheritance. And in the NKJ version “in Him we also have obtained an inheritance.” Major English translations all saying something that sounds like you and I get something. Believers get something. We get this inheritance.

And while we know that if we just think about the truths of the Scripture, the New Testament, what it teaches, even later on in this passage, in verse 14, we recognize that is a true statement. You and I, if you are in Christ this morning, you have an inheritance, you have that blessed hope and joy of your anticipated inheritance in heaven. It's kept for you. And you look forward to that, right, that is a true statement.

But what we are interested in is seeing if that is what in fact Paul actually said here in the beginning of verse 11. Instead I think the verse, the beginning of verse 11 is better understood as “God's inheritance,” not our inheritance. For instance in the NIV it says, “In him we were also chosen,” sounding like God actually being the one receiving there. If I could restate the ESV to maybe more properly, accurately translate the Greek verb, it might state “in him we have been obtained as an inheritance.” We have been obtained as an inheritance. Or as the NET Bible puts it, “In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession.” And I think that really is what Paul is stating here. It's not so much about what we are getting, its about what God is getting. God has an inheritance. God is receiving based on verse 11.

And who or what is He receiving? It's us. It's the saints. God is receiving you. God's inheritance is you. If you are in Christ, He receives you as His own, as His own inheritance. And when you think about it, just even the way that God interacted with Israel and how he spoke of Israel it is pretty parallel, the way He spoke of Israel was “you are my chosen people” - “you

are my portion”- “you are my inheritance.” That’s how God interacted and talked about Israel, and in a similar way, here with the church, He is doing the same thing, or we have the same truth, that we are God’s inheritance. God’s people are His own inheritance. They are His.

Furthermore, just think about what we have covered already in this passage. Think about verse 3 leading up to right now. Think about all the glories that have unfolded and really who has been doing the work? It’s been God. God has been the one planning salvation before the foundation of the world. God has been the one predestining us to be adopted into His family. Which notably was for Himself. That’s why He adopted us, for Himself. Also it was Christ who accomplished salvation in His death upon the cross. It was through Christ’s blood that we were redeemed. It was through Christ giving of Himself that we are forgiven of our sins. It’s Christ who awaits the final fulfillment of all things being brought into subjection underneath Him. It only makes sense then that at this point, God receives what is rightfully His. After God has done all of this work, it only logically follows that He then will receive the reward of such work.

I mean, and this is actually also Biblical too, think of 1 Peter 2:9. Peter says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,” That is true, you and I, the church, this is how God views us. He views you and I as a possession. His own possession. And it is similar to what we see at the end in Revelation 5:9, the worship that happens in the throne room, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” The work of Christ, it did something great in not just taking us out of the slave market of sin but it actually presented us to God. We are His people. We are His inheritance as He seizes us.

And if we just actually were to look at the Greek verb in verse 11, it is a passive verb, and so a passive verb means you are being acted upon so we are not the ones receiving, we are the ones being received. Right? God is actually taking us as His own inheritance. And when we think about this, we have to recognize that phrase that pops up so often in these verses, the only way that we can be deemed worthy as God’s inheritance is because of Christ. It’s that phrase that starts off in verse 11, “In him.” It is in Christ, it is only in Christ, that we have the ability to actually be presented before God

and He seizes us, He takes us into His arms and He says “mine” - “you are mine.” We are His inheritance, because of what Christ has done. Christ provides the grounds by which we can even be in relationship with God.

While we were sinners, we were destined for God’s righteous wrath, we deserve it, and it would be unleashed upon us. However, in this verse, we see the astonishing truths concerning who Jesus is and what He did. Think of how major this is that we could be complete rebels to God, enemies set against Him, and then because of what Christ has done, we are now brought near in such a way that God says, ”you are mine.” And He cherishes you as His own personal inheritance.

I mean you just think about how salvation is described and this is a pretty strong statement. There are other strong statements about salvation, that is that God is no longer enemies with us, He no longer hates us, He is no longer against us in our sin, but Christ has solved that by taking that punishment on our behalf. And also you think of how when we were not friends with God, we were enemies of Him and Christ resolved that by reconciling us and making peace between God and us. And also you think of how we were outside the plan of God, outside the people of God, yet He brought us near into His family and adopted us and these are all wonderful and major things, but think of it to this level: It is so significant what Christ has done, that Jesus brings us before God in such a way that God is delighted to receive you. You who were once dead in your sins and trespasses. You who were stuck in the filthy ways of how you lived. You, who God could not stand the stench of you, because of His holiness and righteousness. Consider the work of Christ that there could be such enmity and hostility that is now resolved that God brings you to Himself and says “you are mine” - “I am delighted that you are my inheritance.”

So this is what verse 11 is teaching here. This is not as, the translation gives across this idea that we have an inheritance, although that is true in a general sense in Scripture, but what is really being stated here is, we are God’s inheritance. He is delighted to receive us. And this is something that is stunning and we will continue to see even in verse 18 of chapter 1 when we get to Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians.

But we will move forward here and continue in our passage, and what we find is more details here about the plan. The plan of God’s inheritance. So

we are the people of God's inheritance. We are His people. He is delighted to inherit us as His own. And we see more about the plan behind all of this. As verse 11 goes on to read "having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will." So it's at this point we are reminded of the sovereign and purpose and planning of God in the salvation story. It was God's plan all along, all along it was God's plan that we would be redeemed from our slavery to sin in order to be with Him and to serve Him with our lives. Paul says that we have been predestined to be God's inheritance. We have been planned and predestined to be God's inheritance.

It reminds us of what he said earlier in verse 5, that we were predestined to be adopted into His family. So think about the majesty of God's plan of salvation. Think about how comprehensive it is in nature that it does encapsulate all of time. It goes from past and it stretches on into the future. This is the beauty of God's salvation plan. All of salvation from the plans of eternity past to the future glories of God's inheritance have been perfectly planned and purposed by God. More specifically we could even say that God had His beautiful work of salvation planned out from the details of the beginning, before the foundation of the world to the end when there will be that delighted time of God dwelling with man once again.

Paul also reminds us of the basis upon which this salvation plan was crafted and formulated. It was not formed, it was not crafted because of you, or what you had to offer, or your abilities, or what you accomplished, or what God thought and looked ahead and saw that you might accomplish. That's not the basis of this plan at all. As is very clearly stated in our verse, "having been predestined according to the purpose of him." This was the plan because of God's purposes. Because of what God wanted and what God desired and His pleasure and His will. This salvation leading up to the final moment when God receives us as His inheritance was all based upon His purposes and His pleasures. God didn't simply just know in advance what kind of person you would be and decide to have you on His team. He chose and He had joy in setting this plan into motion. God did not choose to inherit us reacting to what we are going to do, our character or our personality. His planning was in conjunction with His purposes and His desires.

And when you look at this verse it's a pretty stunning truth that comes forward, because it's not just that God is the one setting this all into motion

because of His purpose and His desire and its only related to salvation but nothing else. But as is clearly stated by Paul, this wasn't just the plan in regards to salvation, but He describes God as the one who works all things according to the counsel of His will. This is of course the plan for salvation because all things that take place in human history are according to the counsel of His will. There is nothing that is somehow an exception. There is nothing that God somehow misses, there is nothing that squeaks by and escapes and has its own ability to determine its future or something of that nature, but this is all coming under the counsel of God's will. All of it. All of it. We don't know the reason for which God has planned or even allowed for all things to happen on earth whether that's good things or evil things but we do know that God's sovereign hand is upon all events that do occur.

At this point we are either uncomfortable with God's control over all or we are comforted by the fact the He is in control over all. People that are uncomfortable would like to say they could do a thing or two better. People that are uncomfortable would say "well if I was God I think I could do a better job than what we got," and often they like to highlight the evil, they find the bad things that are happening and they go "for instance, what is it with all of this terrible crime? And what is it with this terrorism? And what is it with all of these terrible things that happen? Why can't God just take care of those things? Why can't He deal with it? If I were God I would. If I were God I wouldn't be so slow to these things, I would actually act on them. And I would do something about it."

But to this thought we have to raise the objection, there is a rebuttal for that. How do you know where to begin and where to end when it comes to dealing with evil? If you are really going to play God you are in a dicey situation. Where do you begin and where do you end in actually confronting and dealing with evil? Do you simply just deal with actions? So all the evil things that have been acted upon and done, and then you take all those away. But what about words? What about the words that people have said, the evil words that have been spoken that have caused loads of destruction and damage in human history? Do you deal with that as well? Let's take it even further. What about the thoughts? What about the motives? What about the desires? That anyone, that is logically thinking, recognizes is guilty. I have evil thoughts at times. I have evil desires that actually come to fruition at times. Do you deal with all of those?

You see it's not so black and white to play God is it? It's not so easy to say that you can bring God down to your level and say "I know how to do this thing, you are doing it all wrong." Where do you begin if you are actually going to try to deal with all evil? Then you have to get rid of yourself, because you yourself are not exempt when it comes to evil.

On the other hand, people that are comforted by His control find rest and peace knowing that God is intimately acquainted with anything and everything that does come to pass in life. The reality of an infinitely wise God brings comfort in knowing that all events are purposeful and meaningful according to God's will. God does not tell us His purpose behind every event as if He needs to explain Himself. He is God. Instead God has shown Himself to be a faithful God. Faithful to His character and those who trust in Him will not be disappointed, however He chooses to exercise His sovereignty in all things. The reality that He is in fact sovereign is comforting enough. That He is in fact faithful is comforting enough. And that we, being put into that spot as judge and creator over all, would be in an absolutely terrible position, not knowing how to be just and righteous.

While God planned in eternity past, to secure us as His inheritance, Paul tells us even more regarding the purpose of God's plans. The purpose of God's inheritance. God does, when we look to the future there is this now expectation that God receives us as His own, His inheritance and this is something that will happen in the future necessarily because it was established in the past as that is who God is, but then we come to verse 12 and read, "so that we who were the first to hope in Christ" and hopefully you are familiar with this phrase by now, "might be to the praise of His glory," "might be to the praise of his glory." You ask why? Why all of this? Why these blessings? Why salvation? Why God inheriting us and actually choosing to dwell with us and allowing this relationship to happen? Why such grace? Why such mercy and love and kindness? Hopefully you know the answer by now, Paul keeps stating it, "to the praise of His glory." That He gets the recognition. That He gets the honor. That He gets the renown for what He is doing. It's very clear. This is what Paul has to keep stating. And it's going to be stated again even at the end of our text in verse 14.

Those believers who along with Paul and the early church had already put their hope in Christ were to represent God's purpose in His inheritance. They were to represent Him and they were the ones that were leading the

way as the church was growing, as they were the first to hope in Christ. And the very clear thing is they were to do this all to the praise of God's glory. God selected His inheritance for the purpose of glory. His glory being made known. I mean this is why we exist. This is why we even exist. We are reminded of this as we continue to come back to the word God, as we are in fellowship with one another. We come back to what are the important things in life? Why am I here? What am I doing? What ought I to be doing with my time? Bringing glory to my maker. Glory to God.

And salvation alone God plans to inherit us in eternity past, which Christ allows for through His death on the cross and God secures at the final day when He will receive us unto Himself. A beautiful unfolding of this plan. The plan of salvation as you look at this, and you think of just these verses, it has very little to do with us doesn't it? Very little to do with us, why? Because you don't get any glory. You don't somehow get some credit. That is not how it works. It's not about us. And Paul has made that clear and he will continue to do that. It's not about you. It's about the glory of whom? God. Our creator, our maker, our Savior. The one who has secured us for this final day.

You want to know your contribution? Your contribution was not very helpful. It was actually rebellion against God. What you could bring to the table was just sin. Your own will was not something that was actually something that God was working with and deciding, "we can do something with this. There is potential in this one." All of us were rebels, spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins against God. But God obviously overcomes that through the powerful work of Christ and what He did on the cross. And thus the glory of salvation shining through. This is salvation through God's perspective. In light of His plans in eternity past, in light of Christ pulling it off and coming to the earth to live a perfect life and die on that cross and make this come to pass. Then what does God get? A future inheritance where He receives us to Himself and God will really dwell with man. And we will be His people and He will be our God. That is His delighted expectation of the future. And we are so privileged to even be a part of it. We are privileged to be a part of His inheritance that He receives with the light. This is salvation from God's perspective. This is how Paul is presenting it here. All glory to God as He has pulled this off and He is the one who receives what is rightfully His.

But in verses 13-14 we now shift. We change the perspective and we take a look at this as Paul helps us from the perspective of the believer. And in verses 13-14 we see the Spirit's indwelling of the saints. The Spirit's indwelling of the saints. This final spiritual blessing that Paul highlights for us. This final notable and worthy blessing that comes to us in the process of salvation in verses 13-14. He begins in verse 13 "in him you also when you heard the word of truth," this is a shift to us, he is talking to believers, "you also, "in him you also." Namely, we have been "sealed with the Holy Spirit" or indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

But before we actually get to that, because when you look at verse 13, that happens at the end of the verse, there are some prerequisites for this. There are prerequisites for indwelling. There are things that take place that actually then meet up with and bring this point where we are sealed or indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Notice how it is stated in verse 13, pretty clear for us, "in him you also when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, then you were sealed." But in Him you also, you heard the word of truth, and you believed in Him. These two prerequisites very clear here, Paul did not simply state, "in him you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit." He could have said that if he wanted to but he makes it very clear. There are necessary steps that led to this moment of indwelling. There is a necessary process here.

Paul addresses salvation from our perspective as believers. It's hard to pinpoint a moment for us where we can look back, and it may be some of you, maybe most of you, have this problem where you look back and go "when did I see the Holy Spirit come and seal me or indwell me?" That is very difficult to pinpoint or understand because you can't see it. But in our experience, I think we should be able to relate to what Paul is saying here. Our experience in receiving salvation should mirror how it's described here in verse 13, hearing the word of truth and believing in that message. Hearing the Gospel of our salvation and thus responding with faith. He is describing these two steps very clearly, hearing and believing.

First he states, "when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation." Let's make sure we are understanding what's being stated here. Let's make sure we actually comprehend. What's the word of truth? What's the Gospel of your salvation? What is this message? This is where it all begins for all of us who have loved to live a new life in Christ. You must

hear the good news. You must have the Gospel proclaimed to your ears. You need truth and you need to hear about salvation that God has offered. Why? Why do you need this? Why do you need good news? Because without Christ, it's simple, all you got is bad. Without Christ, any type of message you can bring, any type of belief you can muster up, is worthless and it is bad news. On our own, we can't be good enough to meet God's perfect standard. Our pursuit to be good falls short like my toddler son trying to shoot a free throw on a basketball that is regulation 10-foot height. It's just not happening. He is not going to do it (I still have some father goals obviously to work with him on that).

But because Jesus said we need to be perfect as His heavenly father is perfect, we have no way of being good enough for God and to get into heaven. It's not happening. It's not happening for mankind. It's not happening for us. Thus, what are we left with? Just bad news. It's a bad situation. Without Christ, there is only bad news, but with Christ it changes completely and there is good news. The good news is that Jesus has already been good enough for us. It was Jesus who became a man and lived up to God's perfect standard. It was Jesus who willingly and sacrificially gave Himself to die upon the cross, it was Jesus who exchanged His sinless life for your sinful life. It was Jesus who took the punishment for your sins. It was Jesus who died and was buried to experience the punishment of sin and death.

Oh but that's not it, it doesn't end there, it's not simply good news because Jesus took a bullet for you and now He is in the grave. It doesn't end there, it keeps going. It's good news because He rose again and He defeated sin's power. It's good news because He ascended into heaven with His Father. It's good news because He will return. And He will reward those who have believed in Him with the gift of eternal life. Without Christ, all we have is bad news. But with Christ, we have the greatest news for mankind.

This is the word of Truth that Paul is talking about here. This is the Gospel of our salvation. This is the good news, centering on the person and the work of Jesus. At some point, you heard that good news. At some point, that message came to you. And you made a decision. You responded. You didn't say, "wow sounds like a great guy." You went beyond that. You said, "I need to stop trusting in myself, I am done with trying to hope in anything I have to offer this God that I will stand before in judgment, I am done with

that and I am now putting everything I've got, I am all in on Jesus." You made that decision. That is faith. That is belief. You stopped leaning on your own understanding. You stopped leaning on your own power and strength, and you put everything on Christ. That was your response.

That is all necessary before we get the spiritual blessing that Paul is giving us in verses 13-14. This forms the prerequisite for the spiritual blessing of us being sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. So after these prerequisites of hearing the good news, believing in Christ, and then we have this beautiful blessing of the Holy Spirit indwelling us. The person of indwelling. The Holy Spirit indwelling us and sealing us. Paul states our spiritual blessing as being sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. When we hear and believe the good news about Jesus then we are sealed with God's own presence, the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit.

To be sealed with the Holy Spirit is God's own statement of declaring His ownership over us. His definitive mark of actually possessing us. As one commentator says, kind of elaborating on this idea of being sealed, he says, "a seal was indeed a mark of ownership in the ancient world, seals were often made of hard stones or precious metals and had a distinctive image engraved on them such as a figure of a deity, a hero, or a portrait. All the persons significant possessions were marked with the impression of the seal. Even slaves and livestock were marked by the owner." This is the case of salvation. This is the case of what is taking place with the spiritual blessing here. God owning us and showing and declaring that ownership by giving us of His Spirit. Paul states our hearing and believing in the good news of Jesus brought the certainty of God's ownership over our lives.

The richness of this blessing extends back even into the past because notice that he doesn't just say, sealed with the Holy Spirit, he says sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. This is even more showing the wise planning and unfolding of salvation as God has set it out from the Old Testament. When the prophets declared that a new covenant would come and there would be a time where God does in fact relate with His people no longer through a temple system of offering animal sacrifices but now being with them, dwelling with them, them having access to Him and Him having access to them. And this perfect setup and that was all a prophesied new covenant that would come and a major part of it was that His Spirit would be in us. Listen to Ezekiel 36:26-27, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will

put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” This has been anticipated and this is the glorious blessing that is now unfolding to us in the church that, when we have heard and believed the message of Christ, we are owned by God. He seals us with His own Spirit, as His Spirit indwells us. We experience these joyful blessings even now. We can have security in our salvation, not only because of the person who indwells us but also because of even the promise of that person. The promise of indwelling that we see in verse 14.

Notice more details that are given here about the Holy Spirit, so not only at the end of verse 13 are we seeing that we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, but verse 14 goes on to say, “who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.” The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance. And now we see the other side of the coin. And now we see the very obvious truth here. That, as Scripture does affirm and state, that, we too have an inheritance in salvation. God has an inheritance in inheriting us and on the other side, we have an inheritance, in inheriting God, and in inheriting eternal life and the kingdom. Believers have an inheritance as well. That is what Paul is clearly stating here at this specific point in verse 14. As Peter states and even elaborates on in 1 Peter 1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,” What a beautiful picture of our inheritance. A beautiful picture, imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven for you. This is true. The Holy Spirit does a wonderful work of not only showing and manifesting God’s ownership over us, but also guaranteeing that inheritance to come. Guaranteeing that spot that has been kept in heaven for us. It is guaranteed. It is not a potential. It is not a maybe. It is a guarantee because of the Spirit that we have within us.

Paul states this, clearer even, in other places in Scripture. In 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 he states, “And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” Later on in 2 Corinthians 5:5, Paul states, “He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.” That word guarantee, is also known as a down

payment or a deposit. You want a guarantee, you want a down payment guaranteeing that the rest is going to come, it will come at a later point. That's what the Spirit is doing in our life. The Spirit is sealing us, and functioning as that guarantee and deposit of that glorious and full fulfillment of the inheritance that is to come, when we are in heaven, when we are with God. God has given us His Spirit as that down payment, guaranteeing our future inheritance.

The future time will come when God redeems us on the last day as His own possession and inheritance. As the ESV reads here, in verse 14, we have, "until we acquire possession of it." Well that's not fully accurate as what the translation of the Greek text says, in fact other translations probably do a better job when they say "until the redemption of his purchased possession," "Until the redemption of God's possession." Either way, it's happening at the same time. When God inherits you, we inherit Him. When God inherits us at that last day, when it finally happens and its realized, He inherits you, His people for Himself, then we also have and receive our inheritance that has been kept in heaven for us. This is the future time that we await and this will be the final and full installment of this inheritance. Until then we have the guarantee, we have the Holy Spirit as that deposit, that has sealed us, making sure and certain what is to come.

And hopefully it's fitting for us to end on this final phrase in verse 14, to make sure it is drilled into your mind that there is the praise of indwelling. There is no surprise where the praise is going or who is receiving the praise here, it is to God. As verse 14 states at the end, all this, "to the praise of his glory" - "to the praise of his glory." The indwelling of God's Spirit sealing and securing believers is also meant to bring attention, praise, and glory to God, just like every other spiritual blessing, and just like every gift that God gives to us. God is the one who is giving every good and perfect gift from above and we recognize Him as the giver of those gifts, the Father who has given them to us in His goodness and kindness to us. But all of it has to then fall within this fitting refrain that's repeated throughout these verses, that it's all to the praise of His glory.

It prompts us to consider our own live's worship. Where do we stand? How do we live when it comes to worship? Are we recognizing these beautiful blessings and truths that are being poured out upon us and recognizing the fullness, the comprehensive nature of the past, present, and future working

of our salvation? And does it bring us to a point where we can say with Paul, “all to the praise of your glory, God - All because you deserve it and I deserve nothing?” Are we people committed to living to the praise of His glory? Do all aspects of our glorious salvation cause us to rejoice like Paul is here? Are we still prone to allow self-centered tendencies to influence our relationship with God? Do we allow God to be God while we submit to His will and plan for our lives? Are we committed to giving Him glory or do we still desire some credit, some attention for the effort that we are putting forth?

God delights to inherit us as His portion and we are blessed to have an inheritance guaranteed by His Spirit. This must drive us to praise and worship our God whose worthy of everything we’ve got. Of all of our lives. Of everything we have. If you are falling short in worship, if you are holding back, if you are not giving God all of who you are and everything you have, then you need to come back, you need to come back to look at Christ, you need to come back and soak your mind and soak you heart in the truths of who our God is. Who is our God and what He has done. Because surely once you have done that, you will have no other fitting response, there is no way you can spend anytime reflecting on God and what He has done and not be moved then to give yourself to Him. That is the key to worship. We have to continue to behold, behold Christ, behold our great God and allow His greatness and glory to then transform us and move us to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose on our behalf.