

The Big Twelve
The School of The Sealed
Ephesians 1:13

Or we could Signed Sealed and Experience

-The **Signing** took place at the cross.

-the Holy Spirit thru Paul in **Colossians 2:13-14** said this about a certain piece of paper:

13b - He has made *you* alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,
14- having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was
contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

when Jesus said: Tetelestai: Which means that as of this moment it is finished, that handwritten ordinance document that listed all that was against us was wiped out.

-The sin problem has been answered and grace received thru faith can begin

-So by the end of the 1st century the details of the New Covenant have written and distributed in what we call the New Testament

-The Ephesians portion of that completed testament was written about 64 AD, the first of Paul's prison epistles

-In that letter he begins with a new set of ordinances if you will that we call the Big 12.

-The first ten we have covered

-These ten are so important they could have been written on two tablets of stone, not unlike another set of ten were written

-But instead of 10 Laws telling us what to do and not to do we have ten truths that God the Father has planned and the Son has executed

-Now we come to School Number eleven

-And not only have the Sin Grievances against been wiped out but they have been replaced in a sense with these ten schools of vs. 3-12

-And now in School number 11 we will see that these ten are Sealed.

-So we **Signed, Sealed**, and that should lead to a certain kind of **Experience**

-Hence our subtitle to school number 11.

Experience

-Two people can go thru the exact same activity, good, bad, exhilarating or horrible and have a different experience ...

-That is why we are here this morning to alter or affirm our Experience

What do we hope to cover tonight

(Show these one at a time)

1-Overall Review

2-Intro to V.13: Guidance and Experience

3-Exposition of Ephesians 1:13

4-In closing let's review our 10 schools and what should be experience coming from them

1-Overall Review

We started this series from Ephesians chapter 1: vs. 3-14 on May 22, 2013

-We are still calling this: '**The Big Twelve**' series

-A school name has been assigned to each of the twelve verses to help us remember them

-We will Review the other Ten schools, verses 3-12 towards the end

-When we apply our School to ourselves

- Suffice it to say by way of introduction that our 12 verses or 12 schools follow the pattern of
- Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**
- The singular NAME with three titled persons (Father, son, and Holy Spirit) is new Bible Grammar where singular and plurals are used together.
- we see it literally in the Beginning: **Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God (a plural noun) created (a singular verb) the heavens and the earth.**

Now Turn Back to Eph. 1:3

- If we look carefully we will see here in Eph. 1:3-14 this same order of the singular NAME identified as three title persons in Matt. 28:19
- In these verses we see the Assigned roles of the trinity in the Redemption of Mankind
- in vs. 3-6 we see the role of the Father as the planner and designer and the sender of the 2nd person of vs...
- in vs. 7-12 we see the role of the Son as the one who is sent and who executes the Father's plan,
- in vs. 13-14 we see the role of the Holy Spirit as the one who applies the finished work of the Son to believing mankind.
- At the end of each members role we read and hopefully live out these words:
"to the praise of His Glory"
- That is to be our mantra
- Our ending thought each day, each week and to our last breath
- Often we say by experience, but guidance has taught us that sometimes we say so by faith!

2-Intro to V.13, Guidance and Experience

- Which is the best teacher? Guidance and or Experience
- the classic debate with my son
- Jimi Hendrix in the 60s asked this question: Are you experienced?
- We all are experienced, we are every hour having experiences and those experiences often guide us regarding future decisions that will lead to further experiences
- But at regular or even irregular times guidance is inserted into our decision making process and may or may not our choice influence our future decisions regarding our experience or out response to our experience if we have no control of the activity
- Two people can have the same activity.
- One may Soul life experienced, the other a Zoe life experience
- Which experience is often dictated by past activities and experiences and hopefully the insertion of the right kind of guidance.
- We all have received some measure of guidance.
- Our Spiritual Guidance should always precede our activities.
- Sometimes that activity is planned, sometimes it suddenly falls on you
- But is the guidance complete?
- Is it soulish or spiritual?
- Activities and the resultant Experience will affirm past guidance or create the need for better guidance
- They work together
- What was initially wrong with the guidance 'Job' received after losing everything including good health?
- The guidance that followed was faulty, until he received proper correction, guidance from the Lord in chapters 38-42

-Let's leave this discussion with this thought: If you only know the basic gospel and have put your faith in Jesus Christ, will you get to Heaven with only that knowledge and that act of faith?

Yes!

-Will you probably have good experiences or very troubling experiences?

-You never quit or renounce your faith, but your experience is very troubling:

-many doubts, many questions, many concerns, many bad feelings and uncertainties, your feelings are dictating your next move, etc.

-But you make it, you arrive in Heaven: you made it.

God wants to you to have Experiences based on His guidance beyond just your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And our School of the Sealed will supply that to all of us

3-Exposition of Ephesians 1:13

Simply read it reads this way:

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

-Again in vs. 13-14 we see the role of 'poured out one' the Holy Spirit as the one who applies the plan and purposes of the Father and the finished work of the Son to believing mankind.

v. 13 In Him you also *trusted* (think of those before you who trusted),

What triggered your trusting?

v.13 cont. after you heard the word of truth,

v.13 cont. the gospel of your salvation;

-It is first of all the good news of your salvation.

-People don't seek salvation who don't know that they need it.

-It is 'Your salvation', you have been convinced that you need saving?

-We often in the early days needed salvation from our present life and we did not think about salvation from the eternal future.

-Others though heard the message of hell and heaven and were convinced of a need for salvation for the eternal future.

-I fell into the former camp.

v.13 cont. in whom also, 'having believed'

-'having believed' is one word: it is an aorist participle: a kind of verbal /adjective in the past tense)

-The participle suggests that you would be described as a believer by others.

-Especially by your activities which produce certain experiences

v.13 cont. ... you were sealed

#1 You were sealed

-The sealing is in aorist past tense.

-A singular event in the past.

-When in the past? does the text help us?

-Yes! the when of our sealing coincides with: 'having believed' ... 'you were sealed'

-It appears that this sealing is simultaneous or a resultant from your believing.

- as we finish the verse we discover who the sealer is: 'the Holy Spirit of promise'

'Of promise' pointing us to Pentecost

-Peter in **Acts 2:32-33** Explains the Holy Spirit of promise, that had been poured out on them just a short time ago.

32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

-By saying the Holy Spirit of promise here Paul is signifying when this sealing began and by whom.

What is the Sealing of the Holy Spirit?

-What would 'sealing' mean to the initial readers?

-The initial readers would have understood 'sealed' in this way:

-It has three main meanings.

First, a seal is that which authenticates and conveys authority.

Two people may draw up an agreement; it may be to sell a house or arrange a business, or something else in that realm.

-They have agreed about the terms, which have been written or printed; but as we know, that document is not really valid and neither man is going to be content with it, unless and until it is 'signed and sealed.'

-You need the seal in addition even to a signature.

-It makes it more authentic, it makes it more absolute—'signed and sealed.'

-A seal therefore is that which conveys authority, or establishes the authenticity, the validity, the truth of a document or statement.

-Today we would call this Notarizing

Second: Another meaning which attaches to 'sealing' is that it is a mark of ownership.

-This is often used in the case of animals;

-the owner or the man who buys the animals puts his mark or his seal or his brand upon them to indicate that they belong to him.

-The same is done with property, or again on documents.

-It is to indicate that something, whatever it is, belongs to and is the property of the person who has used that particular seal.

The seal has a particular image on it which belongs to one man only.

-and therefore, when you see that seal's image on anything, you know that it is the property or possession of one particular person.

-Since the Spirit is seal and He is not visible to the physical eye this image of ownership is for the spirit world to see.

-Now the image is not the Spirit's image, for He did not come to promote Himself but to promote the image of Jesus Christ.

-He is the owner,

-The Seal says: don't do anything to His property without getting His permission first.

-Remember Job!!

Third: Furthermore, a seal is also used for the purpose of security.

-If you desire a parcel to go carefully by post or by train you not only tie it up, but you melt sealing-wax on to the knots and then stamp the wax with a seal.

-If that seal has in any way been broken or marred it is an indication that someone has been tampering with the parcel.

-There is an instance of this in the New Testament.

-When our Lord was buried the Roman authorities and the Jews were concerned as to what His followers might do with His body,

-so they rolled a stone over the mouth of the grave and then sealed it to make it secure.

Thus we find that there are three main meanings and applications to this term 'sealing'

1-authenticity and authority

2-ownership, and security

3-and safety—and these will help us to understand what is meant by our being 'sealed by the Holy Spirit promise.'

Use of Sealed in Bible

John 6:27 Jesus to the multitudes that were following Him, said this...

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

-The Father has certified, authenticated that Jesus is who He says He is!

-Here our Lord was telling the people that they should listen to Him because God the Father had sealed Him.

-In the case of our Lord we are told that a declaration was made three times that said, 'This is my beloved Son', and that that was confirmed by His works and His words.

-Whatever men may do to Him He is authenticated as the Son of God and the Savior, and though hell be let loose against Him, God's purpose is to be carried out in him and through Him. 'Him has God the Father sealed.'

The ways in which God had sealed the Lord Jesus is to be found everywhere in the Gospels.

1-God had sealed Him at His baptism by sending the Holy Spirit upon Him in the form of a dove.

2-John's Gospel tells us that 'God gives not the Spirit by measure unto Him' (3:34).

-The Holy Spirit was sent upon him in all His fulness.

-Although He was still the son of God, eternal and co-equal with the Father,

-He had limited Himself, He had come in the form of a servant;

-and before He could do His work as the Son of man and as the Savior, He needed the power of the Holy Spirit.

-So the Spirit was given to Him, not in measure, but in all His fulness.

-Thereby God set His seal upon Him.

-No one remained sick, demon possessed or dead in his presence: That my friends is having the Spirit without measure!

-That is being sealed, authenticated by the Spirit

3-Furthermore, 'a voice came from heaven saying, This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased'

-That voice spoke on three occasions, authenticating Him, sealing Him, pronouncing Him to be God's Son, the Messiah, the deliverer.

4-Concerning the works, therefore, He claims that He is doing the works which the Father had given Him to do.

-That was His authentication, and it was manifested in His ability to expound the Scriptures though He had never received any training to do so.

-People listening to Him said: 'Never man spoke like this man' (John 7:46), for He was speaking in all the fulness of the power of the Spirit.

5-The same applies to His works. He was able to say: 'Though you believe me not, believe the works' (John 10:38). The works thru the Spirit were His authentication.

6-He fulfilled Scriptures as Matthew repeatedly argued.

-Ten times we read in Matthew: '**that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet ...'**

-This was His authentication.

Other uses of the word Sealed in the NT

Rom. 15:28

28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

-Here sealed is a seal of ownership and security that says do not tamper with!

2 Cor. 1:22

22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

-Here the seal of the Holy Spirit is similar to our sealed in Eph. 1:13,

-but in 2 Corinthians the certification and guarantee that is sealed are that the promises of God as generalized in v.20 will be fulfilled,

-But with one caveat: That the fulfilling of His promises bring Glory to God.

-Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

-Again a seal of security as well as ownership!

We have seen, then, the meaning of the term as it is found in common usage and also in Scripture; and we find they coincide.

You were Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise

-Can you be sealed and not know or not understand what the sealing is referring to?

-Yes

-What will your experience be on earth without understanding this sealing in Eph. 1:13?

-Chances are your experience would be very poor.

-Your witness would be very poor

-You will be on defense when it comes to God and you, and God and others because you did not understand what this sealing means!

Which Definition of Sealed applies to Our School of the Sealed?

-Our First definition of Sealed was this:

A seal therefore is that which conveys authority, or establishes the authenticity, the validity, the truth of a document or statement.

-I would say that the sealing here by the Holy Spirit is His establishing the truth, authenticity, the validity of our first ten schools, verses 3-12 of this chapter 1 of Ephesians

-The only way to know these truths which reveal the plans of the Father and the execution of those plans by the son is to read them, study them, embrace them, be able to explain them to yourselves and others.

-The Holy Spirit has sealed them by sealing you!

-It is no coincidence that this sealing comes after the first ten schools which show forth in major strokes the plan of the Father and the execution of that plan by the Son.

Martyn Lloyd Jones says this:

-We must be certain about these things, we must first establish our doctrine,

-for unless we are satisfied with regard to the doctrine we are never likely to experience it.

-And it is because so many hold a wrong doctrine with regard to this question of what is being sealed or authenticated in these verses

-they lack the correct experiences that from these verses.

-We are not mistaken if we say our being sealed by the Holy Spirit is a mark of ownership and security regarding the Spirit world.

-But here we are also sealed to authenticate and certify these great truths in us.

The Other side of this coin is that we seal these truths for ourselves as well

-Once we understand this aspect of the Sealing of the Holy Spirit and all of these great truths we must then seal them ourselves!

-Yes we must seal these teachings as well and then they will greatly effect our earthly experience!

-Turn to **John 3:33**

33 He who has received His testimony has certified or sealed as in Eph. 1:13 that God is true.

-Have you sealed for yourself that God is true?

-Have you sealed for yourselves that God is good in an evil world?

-Recall Ps. 10:1 from Church in the Park.

-It reads this way: **10:1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?**

-The Psalmist is working thru His sealing of the truth: God is good

-He works it out, he doesn't shy away from it

-He ends this way:

16 The LORD is King forever and ever;

The nations have perished out of His land.

17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;

You will prepare their heart;

You will cause Your ear to hear,

-He sealed the deal God is good!

-Have you sealed for yourself the first ten schools of Eph. 1:3-12?

-What does Paul do after he has taught the Ephesians and CCR theses 12 schools?

-In Vs. 15-20 He Prays

-He prays in a sense that these basic truths would be sealed to them and they would seal these truths

-He prays that they would have the power to live out in experience these truths everyday

-no matter what the World, the Devil or our flesh would do to us or tempt us to do

-His pray reads this way: **15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,**

16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

4-In closing let's review our 10 schools and what should be experience coming from them

Under the Father's section, vs. 3-6 we saw the role of the Father and the schools we covered were:

#1: The School of Blessing, Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

-The Experience: To be heavenly minded and be blessed and be a blessing on earth no matter what!

#2 The School of the Chosen, Ephesians 1:4

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, *in order that we should be holy and without blame before Him now and always ('in love' we connected to v.5),*

-The Experience: Humility because He never would have chosen me apart from in Christ

-The Experience: Without heavy burden: For He me set apart for Him and without any blame

#3 The School of Adopted Children, Ephesians 1:5

5 (from v.4)... 'in love' having predestined us to adoption as sons (*in case you doubt your spiritual birth, He makes it legal*) by Jesus Christ to Himself, (*did He do this reluctantly? ... no but*) according to the good pleasure of His will,

-The Experience:

#4 The School of Acceptance, Ephesians 1:6

(*How can God who is light make sons of darkness, sons of light?*) 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (*and highly favored*) in the Beloved.

-The Experience:

Under the Second Section in vs. 7-12 we see the role of the Son and the Schools covered are:

#5 The School of Redemption, Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption (*the price?*) through His blood, (*the 1st result is....*) the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

-The Experience:

#6 The School of Abundance, Ephesians 1:8

8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

-The Experience:

#7 The School of Mysteries, Ephesians 1:9

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

-The Experience:

#8 The School of The Gathering, Ephesians 1:10

10 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.

-The Experience:

#9, The School of The Gymnasium, Ephesians 1:11

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works *out* (*as in a Gym!*) all things according to the counsel of His will,

-The Experience:

#10 The School of His Glory

v.11b being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

-The Experience:

All of these have been Sealed by the Holy Spirit

Have we sealed them?