

The Big Twelve
The School of the Guarantee
Ephesians 1:14

Turn to Ephesians chapter 1

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

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

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

-These 12 verses, 12 schools if you will, are broken up into 3 sections following the order of the NAME in..

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

If we look carefully we will see here in Eph. 1:3-14 this same order of the singular NAME in Matt. 28:19

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,

in vs. 3-6 we see the role of the Father as the designer, the planner the sender, and the adopter

in vs. 7-12 we see the role of the Son as the one who is sent and who is executed and executes the Father's plan

-**In the Third Section in Vs. 13-14** we see the role of the Holy Spirit where we have only two schools:

-Our eleventh school: **The School of the Sealed**

-And Our twelfth school: **The School of the Guarantee**

-An unusually narrow set of responsibilities given to the Spirit of God in light of the roles of the Father and the Son

-We read in v.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,**

-You were sealed when you believed the gospel of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ

-The certifying 'seal' itself is like the rest of our verses in 3-14: it is from Heaven

-It is the Holy Spirit of the Father

The Doctrine of Procession

-The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father

-In **John 15:26** Jesus says this:

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

-Again Jesus says this to His disciples in **Matt. 10:20**

20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

-In v.13 this is indicated by the phrase: '**the Holy Spirit of promise**', which was fulfilled on Pentecost

-He is the Spirit of the Father and He is the Spirit of the Son (see Gal. 4:6) and He is distinctly His own Spirit

-Why is He the Spirit of the Father and of the Son?

-Because He is 'the omnipresence' of both thruout the world

-He did not come to speak of, or promote Himself, but to promote Jesus and the Father

But as the Spirit of Promise He seals us,

-The seal which is the Holy Spirit Himself authenticates our belonging to the Father and the Son

-His seal is a Spiritual mark of ownership that is seen by the spiritual world and to be understood by us

The second thing the Holy Spirit is, is this: He Himself is our guarantee....

... which brings us to our 12th school our last school, **The School of the Guarantee** in v.14

-Or our subtitle could be: **Heaven Seals Prayer Reveals**

-He not only seals us so as to authenticate us and mark as owned by God

-He seals in what is ours in vs. 3-12

-But He is our Guarantee:

Guarantee = The First Installment of what is ours in full when we get to Heaven.

Let's borrow from v.13 and read our verse again

-first from v.13.... the Holy Spirit of promise (*the one who seals us*), v.14 who is also the guarantee or first installment of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

-Is there anything else on earth that is more Heavenly, more like the Spirituality of Heaven other than the Holy Spirit?

-If there is it would not be as perfect or complete as the Holy Spirit

-So the Holy Spirit not only authenticates us, that we are God's Children and owned by The Father

-Sealing also means to seal all that is within us

-We see this picture in the seven sealed scroll of Rev. 6 where the only one worthy to open the seals was the Lamb who had been slain.

-Once He did open the all of the contents came out progressively and in order and in living color!

-So it is with our sealing by the Spirit.

-He not only seals what is within, but He also 'breaks open', illuminates, gives understanding, He corrects,

-He encourages, He equips, as we search these truths out, layer after layer.

-That seal includes knowing possessing the knowledge of all that the Father and the Son have done for us

With that picture in mind ...

-So it is interesting to me that this third aspect of sealing would apply to our first ten schools in verses 3-12.

-The first 10 are so important to our present time on earth that he wants to be sure that these truths are in us and sealed within us.

-He also wants us to be assured about the future that it is such a contrast to this earthly life

-And we not only have a guarantee of more but we have right now the first installment of that life in the person of the Holy Spirit within us.

So what do we have?

-And this will be our last review of our schools in verses 1-10

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 (*down here!*) with every spiritual blessing which have their origin in the heavenly places in Christ,

-He has blessed us here and now, they are ours now!

-But they are Heavenly, they come out of the Heavens

#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 (*because we were not before believing His Gospel*) before Him now and always

-(in love' we connected to v.5),

-He choose us just as we are, prepared to make us children in the image of His Son Jesus

-Self-doubt should go by the wayside when we realize He chose us first!

#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 legally binding) by Jesus Christ to Himself, (did He do this reluctantly? ... no but) according to the good pleasure of His will,

-Thru believing we are born from above anew, and here he tells that we are legally, judicially if you prefer, His children as well.

#4 The School of Acceptance, Ephesians 1:6

(How can God who hates sin make 'children of darkness' into 'children of light'?) 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (and highly favored) in the Beloved.

-Which leads to praise and glory to Him who made us accepted or better yet: Highly favored!

-Are we a thankful, praising people?

-How many times a day do you and I go around thanking Him?

Under the Second Section in vs. 7-12 we have saw the role of the Son

#5 The School of Redemption, Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption (and the price?) through His blood,

-'His blood', the only thing in these Heavenly verses that is still on the earth!

-Selah!

-Turn to Ex. 29:11-12 to see a picture of this: 11 Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

12 You shall take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the *brazen* altar with your finger, and pour all of the rest of the blood beside the base of the altar and thus on the earth.

-Eight times in Lev. 4-9 Moses instructs the pouring of sacrificial blood at the base of the brazen altar

-Why on the earth?

-See on your own Rom. 8:19-23 and ask you to carefully consider: Gen. 3:19 with 1Cor. 15:47-49

-(the 1st benefit of His shed blood) v.7 cont. ... the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

#6 The School of Abundance, Ephesians 1:8

8 the riches of His grace which He made to abound (out of Heaven) toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

-The first grace is forgiveness, followed by 32 other graces from Heaven!

-They come with instructions for us in all wisdom and prudence.

#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,

-Mysteries, the truths revealed in the NT that are not in the Old Testament

-By way of application searching out, bringing out the mysterious truths of God's Word for ourselves

-Prov. 25:2 says this: 2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,

But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

-We are kings and priests

-We are to search out the often mysterious Word of God

-We can only do so only thru the illumination of the Holy Spirit- more on this later

#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.

-That will be one great party

-In the meantime we are to gather together regularly here, in CG, in our homes etc.

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

V. 11 reads: 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,

-We emphasized God's great workout and His working out all things according to the counsel of His will

#10 The School of His Glory, Ephesians 1:12

V. 12 reads: that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

-The Apostles and the first Christians were to be an example of a glorious, praising people in a dead and antagonistic world!

-And we that are older are to be that example to those behind us in Spiritual age!

So we've talked a little more about sealing and what has been sealed within us

-Let's spend some time on the guarantee, the first installment

- v. 14 The Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee or first installment of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

-So do I have this right?: The Holy Spirit of Promise, I am sealed with, is also the guarantee,

-The first installment of my inheritance

-Until the completion of the redemption of me, the 'purchased possession'?

-Since I am seated in Heavenly places in Christ what is not finished?

-**Romans 8:23** gives us the answer:

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption to be complete, the redemption of our body.

-There are some who think of 'redemption', only in terms of dealing with our sin issue with the first priority being: the forgiveness of sins;

-But in many passages it has a wider scope.

-It involves God's complete purpose fulfilled in our entire emancipation and deliverance.

Again

-What does 'guarantee' mean?

-Is like an earnest, a partial payment of the whole

-A first installment of what we will get when we get there

-And the Holy Spirit is that first installment

-The 'earnest' is closest in meaning.

-An earnest is not just not just a guarantee that you will fulfill an obligation but the earnest is the first installment of your purchase.

-This first installment is Spiritual in nature

-And we live in a predominantly physical world that is also spiritual

-On the other hand Jesus, with a resurrected body, lives in a predominantly Spiritual world that also has physicality

-We do not understand the physicality of Heaven other than when Jesus walked on earth in a resurrected body after His resurrection

-**1 Corinthians 15** tells us a little more about Jesus' body and ours to come

-Turn there

v.35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

v.36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

-first the old must die or be raptured and changed

v.37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be,

-So our new body will not be like this one

v.38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

-There will be a basic similarity to Jesus' body, but we will each have a unique look to ours.

v.39 The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

-Ok this body is corrupt and in Heaven we need an incorruptible body

-He is not redeeming this body, but He does have mercy upon them!

v.43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

v.44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a **spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**

v.48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

v.49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

1 John 3:2 says we will be like Him

His Body....

-It was physical yet He appeared and disappeared without going thru doors, **Luke 24:12, 31, John 20:19**

-It was a spiritual body yet He ate earthly food with His disciples, **Luke 24:41-43**

-It was a spiritual body yet Thomas could feel the hole prints in His hands and in His side, **John 20:27**

His is The Universal body, suited for everywhere

-Spiritual yet tangible

-So our visual our model of what we will be like in Heaven is Resurrected Jesus on Earth for 40 days!

In the meantime what do we do until this purchased possession is redeemed?

-How do these 12 Schools, which are purely spiritual become a living reality in our lives?

-The subtitle to our message is: **Heaven Seals Prayer Reveals**

-Words must become Spirit and Spirit must become a daily reality in our mostly physical life

-The Spiritual Word, the only Spiritual thing on earth besides our Born from Above Spirits

-Needs to become real, tangible, living in our daily lives

Remember the subtitle to our message: Heaven Seals Prayer Reveals

The Apostle understood the necessity of this need for he immediately says and does this:

v.15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

-Per John this love for the saints is the evidence that your faith is genuine and your love for God is genuine

-Love for all the saints verifies that you are not a liar when you say I follow Jesus Christ

-1 John 3:14-18

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.....

.... 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.....

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

Back to Eph. 1

v. 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, *continuously* making mention *or remembrance* of you in my prayers:

-are we thankful for each other?

-Let's do it now

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you

-What would you have Him give to you right now?

the Spirit (*let's capitalize Spirit*) **of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**

-Ask for this filling of the Spirit, this specific request, it is here and therefore His will!

-It is all about our Lord Jesus Christ, not us,

-The Bible is Christ centric, not man centric

-Let's do it now

With The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation about him comes.....

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

that you may know *understand and grasp* what is the hope of His calling,

-In our context: Grasp the guarantee, the first installment that will reflect the full payment in Heaven

and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

-We are His inheritance, He wants us, He has everything else or if He doesn't He can make it in less than 24 hours!

Once we grasped these sealed 12 Schools we need power to live them out

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

-Let's do it now!

Understanding what this power looks like in History, what was its greatest exhibition or display to date?

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The rest of the Epistle takes off from these 12 Schools, 12 verses

Chapter two takes us back to our state before grace

The rest of Ephesians in a sense is a an expansion and an application of these 12 verses.

Let's Pray

Communion

Remember His blood poured out on the earth is the only thing in our 12 verses that is still on earth!