

## The Church: Heirs to the Spiritual Inheritance in Christ

Ephesians 1:9 -14

*History is neither meaningless nor purposeless. It is moving towards a glorious goal...We need to see time in the light of eternity, and our present privileges and obligations in the light of our past election and future perfection. Then, if we shared in the Apostle's perspective, we would also share his praise. For doctrine leads to doxology as well as to duty. Life would become worship, and we would bless God constantly for having blessed us so richly in Christ.* (John Stott, God's New Society, p. 45)

### Sermon Outline:

#### 1. Chosen by the Father

- Having been predestined you were made heirs (given an inheritance) in Christ (vs. 11)

#### 2. Redeemed by the Son

- Having heard the Word of truth you put your hope (trusted) in Christ (vs. 12 - 13)

#### 3. Sealed by the Holy Spirit

- Having believed you were marked in Christ with the promised Holy Spirit (vs. 14)

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Paul teaches that the believer's adoption (vs. 5) leads to being made heirs (vs. 11). What do we know about our inheritance in Christ? (Cf. Gal 3:18; Eph 1:14, 18; 5:5; Col 1:12; 3:23 - 24; I Pet 1:4).

2. How does knowing more about our past calling and our future inheritance motivate us to live for Christ in this present life? Why do you think Paul begins the letter of Ephesians with these themes?



## Personal Study Notes

### Ephesians 1:11-14

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

#### Insights Gained:

*Obtained an inheritance (vs. 11)*

*Who works all things according to His wil (vs. 11)*

*[that we] might be praise to His glory (vs. 12)*

*God's seal with His Spirit (13-14)*

#### **Questions or Insights for Discussion:**

1)

2)

