

Message #1084  
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"YOU HAVE AUTHORITY"  
{Ephesians 1:15-23}

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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#### INTRODUCTION

I want to begin this morning by looking at verses 13 and 14 of Ephesians

1. This book is so rich and I don't want you to miss any of the incredible blessings that God has for you. Please read with me...

"You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory."

Now in the verse immediately preceding this, Paul wrote...

"...we, who were the first to hope in Christ..." {1:12a}

There are three key pronouns here that are essential to our understanding what is being said...

{1}--"we"--he is referring to the Jews

Again, I remind you that the Gospel came first to the Jew. Paul wrote in the Book of Romans...

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile!" {1:16}

In John's gospel we read...

"He {Jesus} came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." {1:11-13}

...again I remind you that in the Old Testament God's chosen people were the Jews ...in the New Testament--we are the chosen of God

"He chose US in Him {Christ} before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." {Ephesians 1:4}

Paul was a Jew...when he uses "we" he is referring to the Jew.

{2}--"you"--refers to the Gentiles--those to whom he is writing

I would like to encourage you this week to read Romans chapters 10 and 11 and you will discover why God opened the door to the Gentiles...because the Jew rejected the message and refused to accept

Jesus as the one promised throughout the Old Testament as the coming Messiah.

Paul's heart was ALWAYS for the Jew--even though he preached to the Gentile.

"I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. For in their

rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell but kindness to

you...Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in..." {Romans 11:13-15; 22}

Now is the day of salvation for the Gentile--those chosen by God. Therefore, "us" speaks of the Jew; "we" speaks of the Gentiles; and finally...

{3}--"our" speaks of both the Jew and Gentile-- of our joint inheritance Paul wrote to the Galatians...

"You are all sons {and daughters} of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, SLAVE NOR FREE, MALE NOR FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!" {3:26-29}

Mind you...this was radical to Paul's hearers. This was the man who had defended the Jewish faith...the one who sought to eradicate every living Christian believer prior to his conversion.

So, what we have is...

"'WE', who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory...and 'YOU' also were included in Christ...and 'OUR' inheritance!"

That brings us to these two key verses which describe for us the entire process of salvation...and offers to us the the promise of God's continued activity in our lives via the Holy Spirit.

"You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory."

#### THE PROCESS OF SALVATION

Paul now focuses upon his audience...the Gentiles.

{1} They heard the word of truth

{2} They recognized the word was the "good news" of salvation

{3} They responded by believing

They discovered the gospel was for them when they heard about the living Christ.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ!" {Romans 13-15; 17}

This makes it clear that even though the Bible teaches the Doctrine of Election as God's sovereign will...it also makes it clear that fact does not negate our responsibility of sharing the good news to those who haven't yet heard about Jesus! We are heralds of the good news. It was D. L. Moody who prayed: "Lord, save the elect--and then elect come more!"

The Great Commission is clear: "Go...and make disciples...and teach them everything I've taught you...!" {Matthew 28:19-20}

When they heard the good news--the gospel--they believed!

...it is by faith that we are saved

...because of God's amazing grace...and His mercy

...not by works

...not by keeping laws

...but by faith!

One is saved when they HEAR the word...RECOGNIZE it as "good news" and BELIEVE that Christ died for their sins...and RESPOND with "Yes, I believe!"

Finally, that brings us to...

#### THE PROMISES THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION

{1} God has "SEALED" us

{2} God has given us "HIS PROMISED" Holy Spirit

{3} God has "GUARANTEED" our inheritance

Now, I have some more superlatives to add to your growing list of God's riches that you've inherited.

{1} HE HAS SEALED US

When one believes in Jesus Christ they are "sealed with the Spirit"

What is the significance of this?

...it speaks of a finished transaction

...the stamp of an official seal--even today--implies ownership--we belong to God!

...we're a child of the King

...we're co-inheriters with Jesus Christ

...we're part of God's family

God has placed His seal upon us because He purchased us to be His own.

...He paid the price for our ransom with His blood

...He has redeemed us...and set us free!

The seal also means security and protection--for the Holy Spirit abides in us forever.

...and the seal is a mark of authenticity

...the stamp of God's approval

{2}--HE HAS GIVEN US THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

Those disciples were told to "wait for the promise" before Jesus ascended into Heaven. Now that promise--THE HOLY SPIRIT--comes to reside within EVERY believer the moment they acknowledge Christ as Savior and Lord.

...therein lies our power

...our authority

...our strength

It is the Holy Spirit...

...that brings us the knowledge of God

...that enables one to believe the good news

...and urges one to respond

He's our helper...our comforter...our assurance!

{3} GOD HAS GIVEN US A DEPOSIT..

...that guarantees our inheritance! This is the final proof to guarantee the purchase of some commodity or piece of property.

Listen carefully: the Holy Spirit is the first installment to guarantee to the believer that God will finish what He has begun in our lives...and bring us to glory.

There's a phrase here "guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory!"

There are three steps to our redemption you should both know and remember...

1. We have been redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ

2. We are being redeemed as the Spirit works in our lives to make us more like Christ.

3. We shall be redeemed when Christ returns and we become like Him!

## CONCLUSION

All of our riches come from God

All of these riches come by God's grace and FOR God's glory.

All the riches that we have receive are but the beginning of what is yet to come.

Dear ones...the best is yet ahead of us.

Let me conclude with some incredibly encouraging news from these first fourteen verses of Ephesians...

1. God has destined us to be His children "to the praise of His glorious grace in

accordance with His pleasure and will!" { 1:5-6}

2. God has made us His inheritance and appointed us to "live for the praise of His glory." { 1:12}

3. One day we will be totally redeemed "to the praise of His glory!" { 1:14}

We exist for the glory of God!

We are God's possession.