

## **EPHESIANS 1:14—THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE**

The object of Paul in this section from verses 3-14 is to help us see something more of the glory of our position in Christ.

The Spirit is called the Holy Spirit 'of promise. That is to say, the Spirit is himself that which the OT promised would be given in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. See Gal. 3:14 (and Acts 2:17).

the second chapter and the twenty-eighth verse, you will see Joel prophesying under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit saying "And it will come about after this that I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind." And if you'll go on down to verse 33, he continues to say, "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered." Now, when was this fulfilled?

Well, the Apostle Peter tells us that it was fulfilled at Pentecost. Turn with me to the Book of Acts, chapter two. You remember when the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost and the Holy Spirit came upon them, and lit upon them as with tongues of fire, and the multitudes that had been gathered for Pentecost began looking at the apostles as they spoke, saying 'These men are drunk!' And the Apostle Peter stands up, in Acts 2:14, a

### **1. THE LINK BETWEEN SEALING AND EARNEST**

Paul almost always links together the sealing and the earnest.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

2 Corinthians 5:5

See 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5. In giving the Holy Spirit to us God is not simply promising us our final inheritance but actually providing us with a foretaste of it, even if it is only a *small fraction* of the future endowment' (O'Brien, 121).

### **2. THE MEANING OF EARNEST**

(Arrabon)—An installment, a small part of the full price to be paid.

The differences between a guarantee and earnest

1. You can give something as a pledge which is not of the same nature as the thing itself. You give a pledge or guarantee you will pay for it.

An earnest is a guarantee of the same kind as the thing itself. If you give a portion of the money, its an earnest in addition to being a pledge. It is an instalment of the whole, guaranteeing that the rest will follow.

2. When you give a pledge to cover a transaction, when you actually make the payment, your pledge is returned to you. But an earnest is actually a part of the whole and its not returned to you when the rest of it is paid.

Lets say you borrow 1000 dollars from somebody and and you give as the pledge a book. When you pay off the debt, then you get the book back. But lets say if you borrow the same amount and give him 100 dollars now, when you pay the balance, you don't get back the 100 dollars. It was a part of the payment.

The extended meaning of **earnest**—

The word 'pledge or 'earnest refers to a portion of the total purchase price paid in advance as a promise that the full payment will come in due course.

Ac Paul is giving us this staggering news that this down payment is the Holy Spirit paid by God! His pledge to us that we belong to him, not for the years of time alone but for eternity. The N.I.V. phrase "a deposit guaranteeing" is one word in the original. The A.V. translates it the 'earnest'. It was originally a Hebrew word, and then it came into Greek usage through Phoenician traders. "It is used in modern Greek for an engagement ring. But in ancient commercial transactions it signified a 'first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge, that pays a part of the purchase price in advance, and so secures a legal claim to the article in question, or makes a contract valid' (AG). In this case the guarantee is not something separate from what it guarantees, but actually the first portion of it . . . A deposit on a house or in a hire-purchase agreement, however, is more than a guarantee of payment; it is itself the first installment of the purchase price. So it is with the Holy Spirit. In giving him to us, God isn't just promising us our final inheritance but actually giving us a foretaste of it, which, however, 'is only a small fraction of the future endowment'" (John Stott, "The Message of Ephesians," The Bible Speaks Today , IVP, Leicester, 1979, p.48). cording to Eadie,

'It is the token that the whole sum stipulated for will be given when the term of service expires. The earnest is not withdrawn, but is supplemented at the appointed period, . . . But the earnest, though it differ in degree, is the same in kind with the prospective inheritance. The earnest is not withdrawn, nor a totally new circle of possessions substituted. Heaven is but an addition to present enjoyments. Knowledge in heaven is but a development of what is enjoyed on earth; its holiness is but the purity of time elevated and perfected; and its happiness is no new fountain opened in the sanctified bosom, but only the expansion and refinement of those susceptibilities which were first awakened on earth by confidence in the Divine redeemer. The earnest, in short, is the 'inheritance' in miniature, and it is also a pledge that the inheritance shall be ultimately and fully enjoyed (Eadie, 67-8).

n other words a portion of heaven which is yet unbreakably linked to heaven has been removed and put within us. That portion of heaven is actually God the Spirit. "You are God's possession. You belong to heaven, and that is where you are going. That is absolutely unavoidable. God has paid the deposit on you, and it is his Spirit that is the deposit or the down payment that guarantees your inheritance." No bank in the world can give every customer an absolute guarantee concerning your deposit. Even bank can crash and go under. No government in the world can absolutely guarantee your investment or your inheritance. But when you believe on Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of God is there in your life, you have a divinely given seal which guarantees a glorious inheritance is yours. No eye has seen the wonders that lie before us, but God has told us about it not to tantalise us, but to inspire our endeavour, telling us he has made sure we will share in its joys. These are the joys of the renewed cosmos, and the little significant, constant and irreversible changes that have taken place in our own lives are a foretaste of something immensely cosmic, of the universal changes that are going to take place in the heavens and the earth

The earnest gives us assurance, an enjoyment of an actual portion of it.

I have assurance that I will receive all ultimately.

### **3. THE MESSAGE**

#### A. The earnest as a pledge

Romans 8:11

Romans 8:23

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

#### B. The installment of the inheritance

1. Foretaste of heaven Romans 8:23

See 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5. In giving the Holy Spirit to us God is not simply promising us our final inheritance but actually providing us with a foretaste of it, even if it is only a *small fraction* of the future endowment' (O'Brien, 121).

I am entering into the glory in a measure even now. It is in small portions, but its real, a part of the glory itself as much as I can bear in the flesh now.

- 2 Cor. 3:17-18
- 1 Cor 13:12
- 2. Become like Christ Now
  - Without spot, without blemish
  - Eph 5:27
  - Jude 24
  - Rev 22:14-15
  - Love
  - Joy---Rev 21:4, Romans 14:17, 1 Pet 1:8, Phil 4:4

#### **4. REDEMPTION**

- A. UNTIL... This brings out the earnest part more clearly
- B. MEANING—deliverance by means of the payment of a ransom price----The final completion of God's plan
  - There is a day coming when our very bodies will be entirely delivered from sin the guarantee of His blessing being the presence of the Spirit within our bodies. Because the Spirit is in me I know that my body is destined to be delivered finally from sins presence.
- C. PURCHASED POSSESSION
  - 1. God's viewpoint
    - 2 Tim 2:19, Deut 32:9, Eph 1:18

This sealing extends until the final 'redemption of the possession. Does this refer to believers' possession of the promised blessings? Or does it refer to God's possession of believers? Probably the latter, as in v. 11. See Ex. 19:5; 23:22; Dt. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Isa. 43:20-21; Mal. 3:17; 1 Pt. 2:9; Titus 2:14; Acts 20:28. God rescues His own possession. All creation belongs to God and He redeems Them for His own sake, even more for their sake.

- 2. Man's viewpoint

#### **5. GOD'S ULTIMATE GOAL**

Isa 43:20-21 We are not saved and blessed for our own glory but for God's He saved us in order that we give Him great glory.