

SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:11-14

1 The Spirit of sonship is our present possession (vv. 11, 13).

- A We are sealed according to God's eternal purpose.
- B We are sealed through faith in God's gospel.

2 The Spirit of sonship grounds our future hope (vv. 12, 14).

- A We are sealed unto the assurance of full attainment.
- B We are sealed unto the assurance of divine glory.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What does Paul teach Christians about adoption in this text? How does it relate to Israel and the land of Canaan?
2. Why does Paul focus so much on God's will in this doxology? How is the fact that God is working out His will in "all things" provide comfort for Christians?
3. If God has already chosen who would be saved, does that mean we should just sit on our hands in hopes that He might save us?
4. What does Paul teach us about the relationship between God's sovereignty and our responsibility? Are they friends or enemies?
5. In what sense do Christians possess the inheritance now? In what sense is it yet to come?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Do I use God's sovereignty to excuse my sin and unbelief?
2. Is my life marked by hope in Christ (i.e., confidently eyeing the future glory that awaits all those who are in Him)? How does what I know about the future change how I live in the present?
3. Does the fact that the inheritance of God's children is God Himself disappoint me or seem anticlimactic to me? Would I want heaven if God was not there?