



Oughtibridge
Parish Church

Ephesians 1:13-14 – Sealed Discussion Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see.

Read through verses 13-14 slowly, a couple of times, carefully considering the words and their meaning.

1. The idea of being “in Christ” has been prominent right through chapter one and it comes up again in v13. Looking back over verses 3-12, list the blessings we receive by being “included in Christ”?
2. How is it, according to v13, that a Christian has come to be “included in Christ”?
3. How does this compare with widely-held ideas about what makes someone a Christian?
4. If a person's salvation hangs on their response to “the message of truth”, what does this tell us about the role of gospel-proclamation in:
 - (a) your own story of coming to faith
 - (b) the growth of the church?
5. The Holy Spirit is described in v13b as having ‘sealed’ us. His presence in a person's life is the divine mark of authentication. What does this ‘seal’ confirm:
 - (a) has happened (v13)
 - (b) will happen (v14)?

6. Describe how v14 gives us assurance of our future and of God's heart towards us?
7. In the talk on Sunday we considered some of the objective and subjective evidences of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (if you weren't there, have a listen online). How can you see or how have you seen evidence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
8. In all relationships there are certain things that foster closeness and intimacy. Without them, relationships grow cold and eventually die. What activities and commitments provide a context for the Holy Spirit to remind and assure us of "the gospel of our salvation"?
9. Verse 14 concludes with the words, "to the praise of his glory." Consider how the role of the Holy Spirit, described in verses 13-14, gives us additional grounds for praising God than those we've already seen in verses 3-12.

Pray

- Praise God the Father for sending us the Holy Spirit as a 'seal' to assure us that we are "in him" [in Christ].
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you an increasing security in the knowledge of what God has done for you in the past and what he has guaranteed you for the future.

A prayer you might like to use:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the seal of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for not only saving me, but for tenderly seeking to give me security and assurance of my salvation. Help me to know more and more deeply that I am "included in Christ" and your "possession" with a guaranteed inheritance to come. And please may many more people locally come to hear and believe this "message of truth, the gospel of salvation". In Jesus' name, Amen.