TITLE: REDEEMED, SEALED AND DEPOSITED!!

TEXT: Ephe. 1:3-14; Dan. 6:17; 1st Jn. 3:2-3; Phil. 2:12-13; 1st Co. 13:8-10

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about three tremendous words of promise from scripture for all those who belong to Christ...

**Ephe 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.**

 God determined, before the creation of the world, that all those who would come to believe in Christ, would be adopted as sons and daughters into His family!

 We are told here that it involves a choice on His part,

(v.4 For he chose us). It is done in and out of Love, (v.5 In love He predestined us). It is based on the good pleasure of His perfect will, (v.5 In accordance with His pleasure and will). But it also involves a choice on our part, (V.13 Having believed you were marked in Him ).

 Just what does it mean to be a child of God? What are the promises that we can claim as His children?

**7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.**

**7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace...**

 The first promise that I want to look at this morning is that of redemption!

 If you have come to God through Christ Jesus, If you have accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life, then you have been redeemed!

 What does it mean to be redeemed?

redeemed= **apolutrosis {ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis} from a compound of Apo'=seperation & Loo-tron = price paid for redemption, ransom 1) a releasing effected by payment of ransom 1a) redemption, deliverance 1b) liberation procured by the payment of a ransom**

 To be redeemed implies a buying back!

 Example: Grocery store-bottle redemption....you buy the bottle but the manufacture wants it back and they are willing to pay a price to redeem it!

 The point is, an empty pop bottle is worth very little to you but to the company that made it is is worth a lot!

 It can be refilled and re-used! Paying the 10 redemption is a lot cheaper than them having to buy a whole new bottle!

 We are worth a lot to God! We are very valuable to Him! So valuable that the price of our redemption, the price that He was willing to pay to get us back was the life, the blood of His only begotten Son!

 We have a lot in common with a pop bottle... A pop bottle is made by someone else for a specific purpose.

 Its purpose it to be full of pop!

 When it becomes empty of its contents then it isn't really worth very much! Except to the one who made it so that it can be refilled with its original contents..

 Church we were made for a specific purpose..

**11 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, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.**

 We were made; we were created, to fulfill the purpose of His will! To bring praise and glory to His name! These containers were made to be full of Him! These containers were never intended for sin and self-indulgence...They were intended for God!

 And He wants to redeem us, to buy us back so that He can fill us with the content that we were intended to be filled with, the very Spirit of God!

 Once we come back to Him through belief and faith in Christ something very wondrous and miraculous happens!

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

 When we come to Christ, when we sorrow for our sin, our transgressing against God, when we repent and ask for Gods forgiveness and accept the price of our redemption, the blood that Jesus shed for us, When we simply believe God, believe the gospel and accept it for our lives...We are marked with a seal!!

 After a pop bottle is redeemed and refilled with the content that it was intended to contain, it is then sealed!

 A coke bottle that is redeemed comes back to the plant and it is cleaned, inside and out, then once it is cleaned, and only then, the new coke is put in it!

 And after the new coke is put in the bottle it is marked with a seal! Coka-cola puts their cap their seal on the bottle!

 This is the same process that God does with us!

 Once we come back to God, once we accept Jesus as the Lord and savior of our life we are cleaned. Our sins and all our unrighteousness is washed away!

 We become a clean vessel ready to be filled with the contents that God intended for us to contain.

 Once we a re cleansed through the blood of Christ, then and only then, can we be filled with the Holy Spirit of God!

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

 The Holy Spirit is the Gods seal that He places upon our life!

 The thought of a seal here is the seal that a king would use in the administration of his kingdom.

 When Daniel was placed in the lions den...

**Dani 6:17 (NIV) A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.**

 If something had the seal of the king upon it you dare not mess with it!

 A seal indicates possession and security!

 When God seals us with the Holy Spirit He is putting His mark of ownership upon us, He has marked us as His possession and we now fall under the full scope of His protection!

 On a more contemporary note, another thing that a seal does is that it locks in freshness!

 Once the new coke is put into the bottle and then sealed, the seal guarantees that the contents will remain fresh, retain its fizz...

 The Holy Spirit does the same thing in us! It is what keeps our contents fresh so that we retain our fizz, our effervescence... It is what makes us bubble!

 Another thing that the Holy Spirit in our life is...

 **14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.**

 When God places His Spirit with in us He is placing a deposit of Himself with in us as a guarantee of our inheritance!!!

**728 arrhabon {ar-hrab-ohn'} 1) an earnest 1a) money which in purchases is given as a pledge or downpayment that the full amount will subsequently be paid**

 It is what Scripture means when it says, Christ in you, the hope of Glory!

 The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is just a taste, a sampling of the fullness that God yet has for us!

 The Holy Spirit that God has given us, as neat and wonderful as that is, it is just a down payment of what is yet to come!

 The presence of the Holy Spirit is Gods pledge to us that our salvation will be consummated! It will one day reach its fullness, its completion!

**Phil 2:12 (NIV) Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

**Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.**

 The day that we come to Christ for the forgiveness of our sins we are saved but our salvation is not at that time complete!

That is simply when the process of salvation starts!

 **4991 soteria {so-tay-ree'-ah} 1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation 2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians 3) future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.**

Fourfold salvation: saved from the penalty, power, presence and most importantly the pleasure of sin. A.W. Pink

 We are to work out our salvation!

**{kat-er-gad'-zom-ahee} 1) to perform, accomplish, achieve 3) to fashion i.e. render one fit for a thing**

 We are to be rending ourselves fit for a thing!

 The thing that we are to be rendering ourselves fit for is the consummated Kingdom of God!

**1Joh 3:2 (NIV) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.**

 After Jesus returns, after we have traded in these tents of clay for new resurrected bodies, and even though we don't know, we can't in our finite minds comprehend exactly what that will be like, But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him!

 We have been given Gods guarantee! He has sealed it with His seal!

 Does it excite you this morning to know that if you have come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord, as your Savior, that the God of all creation, The Lord of Lords and the King of all Kings has placed His royal seal upon you!

 He has laid hold of your life as an eternal possession of His very own!

 He has given you the Holy Spirit as a certificate of deposit to guarantee the inheritance that you have yet to receive!!!

 Do you realize that as tremendous as the Holy Spirit in our lives is now. That as tremendous and wondrous is the power that God has given us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that what we see know is just a shadow of what is yet to come!

 In fact, Scripture describes our situation now as imperfection compared to what yet awaits the Church!

**1Cor 13:8 (NIV) But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.**

 The things that we place so much importance in now, even Gods gifts to the Church are not the perfection that God has yet for us to realize!

 At Best, our knowledge, our understanding of the glorious mysteries of God are at this present time limited...

 When Jesus comes back for His Church, When we are raised imperishable into the newness of resurrected life, things like prophecy and tongues and miraculous works and healing's won't be needed any more!

Why? Because they themselves are imperfect!

 They themselves fall far short of the richness of the inheritance that awaits us.

**12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.**

 Even the gifts that God has given His Church won't be needed when when know just as we are fully known!

 What that means is that we will literally have the mind of Christ! We will see things as Jesus sees them!

 We will understand things that have never been understood before!

 All the mysteries of the ages, all the mysteries of the universe will be made perfectly clear us!

 That is the fullness of our inheritance, that which awaits us, that which God has sealed us for!

 And if that hope doesn't get you excited than you are un-excitable!

 This morning, have you been redeemed by the blood of the lamb?

 Have you come to Jesus and accepted the sacrifice that He made for you?

 Have you had His seal placed upon you?

 Have you received the deposit of the Holy Spirit upon your life. The only deposit that can guarantee you a place in God glorious kingdom?

 If you have, are you excited about the inheritance that awaits you?