

Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human
Part 6: A New Future

We Worry A Lot Too

Eph 1:13-14- "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, & believed in him, were sealed w/ the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

The Gospel Is True & It's About The Finished Work Of Jesus

2 Peter 1:16-18- For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power & coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor & glory from God the Father, & the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, w/ whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were
Eph 1:3- We were blessed IN CHRIST
Eph 1:4- We were chosen IN HIM
Eph 1:5- We were adopted THROUGH HIM
Eph 1:7- We have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD
Eph 1:11- We have obtained an inheritance IN HIM

This Is For Anyone Who Has Heard & Believed The Gospel

VS. 13- "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, & believed in him"
This is not for those who "go to church" "help old ladies cross the street" "don't cuss, drink or chew..." because this is not about morality- this is about hearing & believing the Gospel!
"The gospel is not a program for becoming a better you. The gospel is not a series of ethical commands. The gospel is not an experience of generic spirituality. The gospel is the good news that God so loved the world that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to fulfill the law, to suffer as a man, & to die on the cross, bearing the penalty for sin the we deserved, & being raised on the third day that we might be declared innocent & righteous before God. The gospel is a message." -Kevin DeYoung

Paul Says That Those Who Believe Are "Sealed"

VS. 13b-14- "were sealed w/ the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."
John 10:27-30- "My sheep hear my voice, & I know them, & they follow me. I give them eternal life, & they will never perish, & no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, & no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I & the Father are one."

Paul Says The Holy Spirit Bears Witness

Romans 8:16- "The Spirit himself bears witness w/ our spirit that we are children of God."

We Move From Liking Jesus To Loving Jesus

Romans 8:15b- "Abba Father"= we love him like a child...dad
Romans 8 tells us that this is the work of the Spirit- to love Jesus

We Also Move From Loving Sin To Hating Sin & Fighting Sin

Luke 6:46- "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' & not do what I tell you?"
John 14:15- "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
Galatians 5:16-25- "But I say, walk by the Spirit, & you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, & the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, & things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh w/ its passions & desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."
1 John 3:8-9- "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, & he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."
One of the most crucial ways we see the "sealing" work of the Spirit is in this- we hate sin & we fight sin because we love Jesus
This is how those two incredible tensions are held together...
2 Timothy 2:19- "But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," AND, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."
It's not an "OR," its an "AND"= we are His AND we fight sin!

We Are To Rest In Our Salvation & Devote Ourselves To Good

Titus 3:4-8- "But when the goodness & loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration & renewal of the Holy Spirit" whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, & I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent & profitable for people."

Thankfully, Our Security Isn't In Ourselves, It's In Jesus:

1 John 2:1- "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate w/ the Father (Judge), Jesus Christ the righteous."
Hebrews 2:1- "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."
In other words, it is possible to hear Gospel & not be saved...
It is possible to have an intellectual knowledge of the truth, or even to make a decision to do something FOR Jesus, & yet that doesn't lead to being sealed by the Spirit as a permanent protected possession= That should put sobriety in us!
Philippians 2:12- "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation w/ fear & trembling"