

tidings (gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the first-fruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of it's full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it---to the praise of His glory.

The Holy Spirit is the seal.

As long as the Holy Spirit remains with you, you are sealed, but if the Holy Spirit departs the seal is broken.

In the times of the New Testament, letters, contracts, and official papers were fastened with a bead of warm wax and then the signer pressed his signet ring or whatever his identification was into it forming a seal. This seal was only to be broken by the receiving party as they chose.

SIXTEENTH STUDY

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ACTIONS BRING NEW RELATIONSHIP TOWARDS GOD OBLIGATIONS AND PRIVILEGES (Romans 8:11-18)

The indwelling Spirit offers the believer new possibilities of existence. It is for the believer to recognize this opportunity, and act upon it . New obligations are now imposed upon the man who has died (to self) and risen with Christ; we owe something to the One who has set us free.¹

1. What are believers called that are led by the Spirit? (Romans 8:14)_____
2. What has been done away with in our Spirit led lives? (Romans 8:15)_____
3. What have we received in our new Spirit led lives? (Romans 8:15)_____
4. Then, what are we allowed to call the Father? (Romans 8:15) _____
5. In Romans 8:16, who bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God? _____
6. What are the benefits of the children of God stated in Romans 8:17? _____

The first privilege of an adopted son, therefore,

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Romans I and II Corinthians, p. 173.

is to *cry, Abba, Father*, which is very personal. It is like saying, “Daddy God.” The second privilege Of the adopted son, is that we become heirs of the Father’s wealth.

We might say that the aim of adoption is to make someone a beneficiary of goods of which he otherwise has been deprived. The metaphor (figure of speech) borrowed from the Roman law court therefore suits the dispensation of grace. The idea of inheritance emphasizes the gratuity (benefit) of the wealth received. Paul sees in the fact of adoption privilege which was passed on to sinners by the Son, the heir *par excellence* (similarity in superiority to), He (Jesus) in whom the promise of inheritance, made to Abraham (4:13; cf. Gal. 3:29), had found its supreme fulfillment. ¹

7. Romans 8:17 - *And if _____ then heirs; heirs of God, and _____ - _____ with _____; if so be that we _____ with Him, that we may be also _____.*

We will suffer for His sake for we are all called to endure (Colossians 1:24; II Timothy 2:12; I Peter 4:14). We must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.

II Timothy 3:12 -

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (Romans 8:18-27)

Our Christian existence has three temporal dimensions: past, present, and future. It is based on the foundation which has been laid, Christ (I Cor. 3:11); it lives in the present by the power of the Spirit; it reaches out toward the full redemption in the future. After having thoroughly dealt with the first two, Paul now turns to the third, the hope we have in Christ. But even so, the Spirit is still central as the foretaste of this future glory. This is the meaning of the key phrase in the section, **the first fruits of the Spirit** (23). God bestows the Spirit upon the believer as the anticipation of the **glory which shall be revealed** (18) when Christ comes to consummate his salvation. ¹

EXALTED FROM SERVANTS TO SONS (Galatians 4:1-7)

An heir is no more than a servant until legally of age (Galatians 4:1-2). Just like that, we were children under bondage to the law until Christ came to redeem us from the law , that we might become adopted sons of God and free from the law. We then become sons of God, who serve God.

SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 1:13,14)

The Amplified Bible says it like this: In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, 8, p.177.

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, 8, p. 178.