

Ephesians 1:7-14

A. Introduction – Ephesians 1:3-14

- A 202-word “eulogy” describing the treasures of salvation planned by the Father, purchased by the Son and applied by the Spirit.
- 1:4-6 – Describe the plan of the Father for our salvation:
 - ⇒ He chose us (1:4) and predestined us in love (1:5, 11).
 - ⇒ His purpose is holiness (4), adoption (5) and worship (6).
- God’s plan is both personal and cosmic.

B. The Blessings that the Son won for us (1:7-12)

The Son is the focal point – half of the verses describe what He has done.

- ❖ **Redemption (1:7-8):** Jesus died to redeem us
 - Redemption is setting free or rescuing by the payment of a price.
 - Hosea redeemed his wife from slavery by paying a price (Hosea 1, 3).
 - God redeemed Israel from the slavery of Egypt (Deuteronomy 21:8).
 - We are slaves of sin – haunted by its presence, gripped by its power and threatened by its penalty.
 - The cost of freedom is the blood of Christ – the violent death of Jesus (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 1:18-20).
 - The result of redemption is forgiveness flowing from His grace.
- ❖ **Revelation (1:8-10):** God has spoken in wisdom and understanding (1:8)
 - There is a definite, decisive, comprehensive, and Christ-centred plan.
 - A “mystery” is a secret that could not be discovered by reason but has to be revealed. Our secrets are for sharing.
 - The world is fractured and broken (Romans 8:22-23).
 - In the future God will restore unity, harmony and peace under the headship of Christ – the universe will be under new management.
 - It involves all things – in heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1-4).
- ❖ **Security (1:11-12):** this is not universalism – we need to be saved
 - Can we be sure of the future?
 - Yes! We were chosen by the Father (1:11), redeemed by the Son (1:7) and granted a sure hope for the future (1:12).
 - We will sing about this redemption in heaven (Revelation 5:9-14).

C. The Blessings that the Holy Spirit applies to us (1:13-14)

- ❖ **The Spirit is a Seal (1:13)**
 - There is an order in salvation
 - ⇒ They heard the Word – it is absolute truth with saving intention (Romans 1:16) and is necessary for faith (Romans 10:14).
 - ⇒ They believed – this is a once for all act of trust (Acts 19:2).
 - ⇒ They were sealed with the Holy Spirit – this gift is given to all believers without exception (Acts 2:38-39).
 - To seal was to stamp or brand livestock, possessions or slaves.
 - God has given the Spirit as a seal – He was promised by the prophets (Joel 2:28-29) and Jesus (John 14:15-21; 15:26-27; 16:12-15; Luke 24:49).
 - He proves that we are genuine and reminds us that we belong to God (1 Corinthians 1:22).
- ❖ **The Spirit is a Pledge**
 - The Spirit is like a deposit or a first instalment of our future inheritance.
 - God is our inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-5) and we are His inheritance (Isaiah 43:1-5). This guarantees our security.