

God's Engagement Ring

Ephesians 1:1-14

I. What's a Seal?

- A. What was it?
1. In ancient times it was a symbol impressed on a wax base.
 2. A document was written & then rolled up.
 - a. Melted wax was poured on the edge of the sheet acting as a fastener to keep the sheet rolled.
 - b. As the wax began to harden a symbol was impressed on the wax.
 - c. The seal held the roll together & identified the sender.
 6. If the sheet were unrolled the seal would be broken so the receiver would know it had been tampered with.
- B. How was it used?
1. It was used to bind & identify scrolls, packages & merchandise.
 2. **ILL: Mordicai's official order allowing the Jews to defend themselves (Esther 8:8).**
 3. **ILL: Pilate saw to it that his seal was placed on the stone at Jesus' tomb (Matt 27:65-66).**
- C. What was the purpose of a seal?
1. To identify who the sender was giving authority to the document or package.
 2. To fasten the scroll or package together like glue.
- D. The seal took on additional meaning during Jesus' day.
1. **Deposit** (ἀρραβών) = earnest money deposited by a purchaser to be forfeited if the purchase was not completed - a down payment.
 2. **ILL: The Engagement Ring.**
 3. Ancient documents using this word.
 - a. A woman sells her cow & gets a deposit (ἀρραβών) insuring the rest will be paid later.
 - b. Some dancing girls engaged for public entertainment were given a deposit (ἀρραβών), the rest to be paid after the performance.

II. How Does the Holy Spirit Become God's Seal?

- A. The Holy Spirit begins to work in your life to make a difference.
1. You receive power to live the Christian life.
 - a. In **I Jn 3:24** He helps you to obey the Lord's commands.
 - b. In **I Jn 4:13** He helps you to identify with the Lord's holy life.
 2. You receive direction to live the Christian life.
 - a. **I Jn 5:6 - it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. He is truth.**
 - b. **Gal 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."** He assures you that you are God's child. The Holy Spirit does this primarily through the word of God!
 - c. **Rom 8:16 - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**
- B. The Holy Spirit becomes the first installment to a joyous everlasting life.
1. **Eph 1:14 - the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.**
 2. **II Cor 1:21-22 - He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**
 3. **II Cor 5:5 - Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**

III. When are You Sealed with God's Holy Spirit?

- A. In **Act 2:38** He is given to everyone who surrenders to the Lord's authority, repents of their sins & are baptized.
- B. In **Lk 11:13** His filling is promised to Christians who ask Him.