

Radical Redemption
Ephesians 1:11-14
August 17, 2025

Opening Illustration

Can you promise?

Introduction

We all want assurance in life. Paul reminds us that God has given us precious promises and blessings that He will keep into eternity. They're all a result of His radical redemption.

God's Radical Redemption Offers Us Assurance

1. God's radical redemption is His plan.

*In Him we were chosen, having been predestined **according to the plan** of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will... Ephesians 1:11*

The phrase, In Him, refers to Jesus Christ. He is the centre of God's plan and the source of our divine inheritance and promised blessings that are ours in Christ. To be chosen also means to have obtained an inheritance, from the word, *eklerothemem*. When something in the future was so certain that it could not possibly fail to happen, the Greeks would often speak as if it had already occurred.

Though Paul and the believers of Ephesus had not yet experienced their inheritance in heaven, it was just as certain as if they were already in heaven. This world with its inequities and injustice is discouraging but when we focus on our hope in heaven, our confidence is in the certainty of our inheritance.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you... 1 Peter 1:3-4

Only in relationship to Jesus do we have a meaningful future. He has given His promises and invited us to share in His divine nature while setting us free from the corruption in our world.

He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:4

The inheritance is ours because we were chosen according to God's plan. God made His plan before creation that He would send His Son into our world to save us from our sins and make a way for us to be restored to God.

Illustration

A lost password and a lost fortune.

2. God's radical redemption is for His praise.

¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Ephesians 1:12-13a (NASB)

When Paul speaks of, 'we who were the first to put our hope in Christ, he is referring to the Jews like the Apostles and fellow Jews who put their faith in Jesus before the Gentiles did.

Then he adds that they were included when they heard the gospel of salvation. We as human beings, want to be appreciated, acknowledged and accomplished, but for the believer in Christ, what truly matters is that Christ is exalted.

Paul wanted above all else for Jesus to be exalted.

...whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ... Philippians 3:7-8

In one of his last letters from a Roman prison, he expressed his loving devotion to Jesus Christ in a letter to his young friend, Timothy.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15-16

Every follower of Jesus faces a constant enemy that we will continually battle, our own egos. Self battles with Christ for supremacy of our hearts and minds. To belong to Jesus, we must submit our will and ego to the Lord and instead, praise Him continually throughout our life. The Psalmist understood this.

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; ¹¹ the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Psalm 147:10-11

Illustration

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling.

3. God's radical redemption keeps His promise.

When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit, guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those ¹⁴who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13b-14

We were marked in Christ with a seal when we believed. The seal is God's way of making His promises more certain. He wanted to reassure us that His promises will be fulfilled.

God is not a man, that He would lie, Nor a son of man, that He would change His mind; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Numbers 23:19

Because we don't receive the fulness of God's promises immediately, He has sealed them with the Holy Spirit who lives in the heart of every believer in Christ.

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... Romans 8:16-17a

The seal is the official mark of identification and the seal of God's Spirit means both security and authority.

- **Security.**

In ancient times the seal of a king represented security.

When Jesus was put in the tomb, Pilate had a seal put on the tomb to make it secure.

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ And they went and made the tomb secure with the guard, sealing the stone. Matthew 27:65-66

- **Authority.**

In the book of Esther, she pleaded with the king to issue a new decree to save the lives of the Jewish people. His earlier decree to destroy them had his seal and couldn't be broken.

You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

Esther 8:8

When Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit, we are equally under the authority of God, and it cannot be revoked.

The Holy Spirit is the seal that guarantees our inheritance in Jesus Christ. He is also God's pledge or down payment. given to guarantee the final purchase price of our souls.

In time, pledge referred to an engagement ring. It's a picture of Christ as the bridegroom and His church as the bride who will one day be fully united at the wedding supper of the Lamb. The Holy Spirit is Christ's engagement ring to guarantee to His bride that the promises He has made, He will keep forevermore.

For all that He has freely given us, He wants only that we praise Him and honour Him in our lives, and in our church.

Closing Illustration

Owing One's Life Twice.