

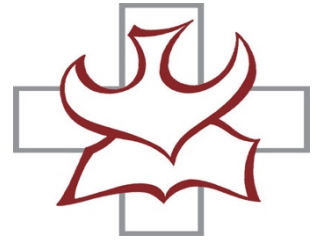
Sealed with the Spirit

The Book Of Ephesians Summer Sermon Series

Romans 6:1-14 Eph 1:1-14 John 3:1-8

June 16, 2019

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Last week we talked about the **Doctrine of Election**, where God chooses you, **by name**, **by grace** and **in Christ**, **before the creation of the world**, to be His very own.

- ✓ But how do you know that you were chosen?
- ✓ How do you know that you are one of the Elect?

In the book of Ephesians, St. Paul teaches us that **Baptism identifies the Elect**. Baptism *reveals* that you have been chosen by God and are one of His Elect. No one comes to Holy Baptism by accident. The Lord has worked in your life with His mighty power to bring you to Holy Baptism where He creates faith and washes away your sins. It is in Baptism where God gives forgiveness, life, and salvation. **If you have been Baptized, then you can have 100% confidence that God Himself has chosen you before the Creation of the world to be His very own.**

Baptism identified you as one of the Elect!

In Ephesians, as well as throughout the New Testament, Baptism is referred to as being **“in Christ.”** The phrase **“in Christ”** is Biblical shorthand for being **“Baptized into Christ.”** When you were Baptized, you were baptized

Baptism into Christ is the moment when God's eternal choosing is made manifest, emerging from His hidden will to become the certain object of saving faith.

Ephesians, T. M. Winger

If you or your children have not been baptized, then let's make that happen! Please talk to Pastor or Ruth about scheduling a time! Baptism is important!

“**into**” the Name of the Father, and of the Son, of the Holy Spirit; and you were **united to Christ** and His death, burial and resurrection¹. Baptism connects you to Christ: you belong to Him, and all of God's blessings come to you through Him. To reflect this, the New Testament uses the phrase “**in Christ**.” In the Book of Ephesians, the phrase “**in Christ**” is used 36 times!

Baptism identified you as one of the Elect; and now that you are “**in Christ**” through Baptism, all the blessings of God are freely given to you!

In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. Ephesians 1:7-8

REDEMPTION means that a price has been paid to set someone free. God sent His Son to **pay the price** to set you free. The word picture is that your sin and guilt have made you a “prisoner”; you were “locked up” in death and could not escape. So, God sent Jesus to redeem you; to **pay a price**, which was the shedding of His blood on the cross. His death sets you free. His death was the **ransom price** that **redeemed** to you! When you were Baptized, this **redemption** was applied to you. Now that you are “**in Christ**”, you are **redeemed** and **forgiven** and “**set free**” from sin, guilt, death! You belong to God! You have a new life of holiness to live! You walk in the ways of God's Word according to His will and in His Kingdom!

Today if you are living like you were trapped in sin, then repent!

Today if you are living like you belong to the world, then repent!

¹ Romans 6:3-5 summarizes it well: Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**? We were **buried** therefore with Him by **baptism into death**, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him **in a resurrection** like His.

The Lord has paid a price for you! You belong to Him! Turn from your sin, confess it to God, and know that a price has been paid for you; you have been set free from your sin by the death of Christ on the cross! Live a life that reflects that! Live a holy life according to God's word! Live your life **in Christ!**

God chose you before the Creation of the world to be His very own! He proves it during your lifetime by bringing you to the water of Holy Baptism. Baptism identified you as one of the Elect! You have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. Christ paid the price that set you free from sin and its unholy lifestyle; you now belong to God, live in His Kingdom, and walk in His ways!

One of the greatest gifts you have been given as one of the *Baptized Elect* is the **Holy Spirit** Himself. **The Holy Spirit is given only to those who are Elect and Baptized.**

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 who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

In Holy Baptism you have been **sealed with the Holy Spirit** who now lives and works within you. A “**seal**” is a sign of ownership in the Bible². That means that you belong to God; it promises God's presence and power at work in your life. The “**seal**” protects you from Satan and his demons, final judgment, and from eternal destruction. The Holy Spirit at work within you is an **internal witness** to yourself that you are **in Christ**, that you are one of the Elect, that you have faith, and that you belong to God! In Holy Baptism you have been **sealed with the Holy Spirit!**

² Interestingly, the book of Revelation describes this same seal in apocalyptic images. God's people are sealed with God's name; showing that they belong to Him. Holy Baptism is the seal of God where He writes His Name on you as you were baptized “*in the Name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.*” In Baptism you were given the Holy Spirit, which Paul highlights as the “seal” in Ephesians. It is the one and same seal. Also, in Revelation, Satan has his own *imitation seal* by which he knows his own; his “mark” is 666. Both seals are invisible, known only to the owners: God or Satan.

The "seal"

- the presence and work of the Holy Spirit --
assures you that God chose you
to be His own before the creation of the world,
He brought you to Holy Baptism to create faith,
and He redeemed you from your sins!

In Holy Baptism you have been **sealed with the Holy Spirit** who now lives and works within you. *But there is even more!*

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 who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit is also a **deposit** guaranteeing something more to come in the future: **your inheritance**. Your inheritance **in Christ**, and **guaranteed by the Holy Spirit**, is the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! The ultimate goal of your Election is that you will live with God in Heaven forever.

The promise that God makes to you is that your dead body will rise from the dead and you will forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in both body and soul; just as you are now, but without sin and with a glorified risen body. We confess this in the Creeds when we say, ***I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.*** **The Holy Spirit that lives and works within you right now is the deposit that guarantees that you will rise from the dead and live forever with God in heaven!**

God is working a grand plan in your life! He chose you in Christ before the Creation of the world to be His very own. During your lifetime, He brought you to Holy Baptism, and revealed that you are one of His Elect. He redeemed you from your sins; and sealed you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit now lives and works in you as you live a holy and godly life, the Holy Spirit guarantees you the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! ALL OF THIS is taught in the first 14 verses of the Book of Ephesians! Amen!