



Sermon Notes: June 28, 2015

## The Deposit - the Already & Not Yet

4 of 14 from the teaching series "The Messiah's Community"  
Ephesians 1:11-14 • Pastor Paul Bradford

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### Ephesians 1:11-14

*In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 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. 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.*

#### “a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

- Discussed last week; we receive this seal when we believe, it marks us as eternally belonging to God.

#### “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance”

- **Deposit:** a real portion now, guaranteeing the full inheritance in the future. God knows we need a portion of our inheritance now to make it through life.
- **Inheritance:** we think “heaven”, but when Paul mentions our hope, he never mentions “going to heaven to be with Jesus”. The Christian Hope is the Resurrection when God will create a new heaven and earth. Jesus’s resurrected body is the firstfruits of what is to come. *Acts 23:6, 1 John 3:2*

#### This Age / Age to Come

- **This Age** (also “this present age” and “this present evil age”): the period from the fall of man until Jesus returns. Pain, tragedy, suffering, sickness, death.
- **The Age to Come:** after Jesus returns and God creates the new heavens and the new earth. Completely whole in mind, body, spirit, relationships, complete fellowship with God, perfect love for Him and others. *Ephesians 1:21*
- This future inheritance has become present in part.
- Descriptions of the Age to Come: *Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 35:1-10, Revelation 21:1-4*

#### Some characteristics of the age to come - the inheritance that awaits us

- Jesus, the son of God & the son of David, the Messiah, will reign in the Kingdom forever, bringing peace, justice, & righteousness.
- There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.
- All will be healed. The eyes of the blind will be opened & the ears of the deaf unstopped, the lame will leap like a deer, & the mute tongues shout for joy.
- Even the land will be healed – the desert will become a garden.
- We will walk in the way of holiness & be freed from all sin forever.
- We will be filled to overflowing, everlasting joy will crown our heads. Gladness & joy will overtake us.
- Above all, the dwelling place of God will be with man.

### **“until the redemption of those who are God’s possession”**

- We are already redeemed, but not fully redeemed.
- Redemption means we are bought back from slavery to Satan. That’s complete.
- Redemption also means restoring humanity to its original, intended state. That has begun, but will be completed in the future. *Romans 8:23*

### **Four areas of our inheritance available today (in part)**

- **God’s Presence** - in the future we will see face to face. *Revelation 21:2, 1 Corinthians 13:12*
- **Revelation** - in the future we will have face-to-face conversation with the Lord and full understanding. *Acts 2:14-18, 1 Corinthians 13:8*
- **Restoration** - in the future we will be free from death and sickness. *Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 16:17-18, James 5:14-15, Isaiah 61:4*
- **Sanctification** - in the future we will be free from sin. *2 Peter 1:3*

### **The Already and the Not Yet**

- The deposit is a portion, not the whole!
- Over-emphasizing the already is dangerous. Over-emphasizing the not yet is equally dangerous.

### **Our Response**

Take hold of your inheritance from the Father – expect his presence, his revelation, his restoration, and his sanctification!