



Paul continually throughout his letter makes it clear that the grace that saves us is given through the reconciling work of Jesus upon the cross. This is achieved that the cost of His death and the shedding of His blood. Through this alone God bring into our lives forgiveness.

The final reality that Paul expounds in these first few verses is the idea that the Holy Spirit is given us as a seal guaranteeing our inheritance until we see God face to face.

Read – verses 13 – 14

What this tells us is that the salvation that we have in Christ is not just some intellectual understanding of God's activity to save us, but that it is a reality that we experience and is developed and deepened by the very presence of God Himself in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit Himself who actively works within us to assure us and give us full confidence of the Hope we have in Christ.

It is the seal of the Holy Spirit that:-

Authenticates our faith – signs of God's presence amongst his people.

Marks us as God's possession – growth in the marks of Christ's holiness, attitude and character.

Secures for us full and everlasting promises of our salvation. – firstfruits of eternal life now in the provision and activity of God within our lives today!

Witnesses to us that we are the chosen people of God – He cries out Abba – Father to God. Assure us of eternal life and the hope we have in heaven.

Paul declares to us that the Holy Spirit in every sense is a deposit, a first instalment while we are on this earth, of the heavenly inheritance we share in Jesus. That is why eternal life means fullness of life now and everlasting life when we die.

Discuss – In light of what we have seen – what do you think the difference is between someone who is religious and someone who is truly born again?

What do you think we should expect to happen in our lives because the Holy Spirit dwells within us?

Read verse 3 - In every sense God has blessed us with every blessing in the heavenly realm in Christ and because of this we can be assured that God has provided all that we need to not only know we are a Christian – but also to grow and bear much fruit that His love and power might be seen in the world today!