

## *Sermon Notes*

### *Themes from Ephesians*

“The Seal of the Holy Spirit” – Eph. 1:11-14

#### I. Introduction

A. Text: Ephesians 1:11-14

B. People’s quest for news

1. Paul presents in Ephesians the greatest news the world has ever heard.

#### II. Exposition

A. A close look at God’s call.

1. Ephesians 1:11-12

- a. Perhaps a restatement of verse 4.
- b. However, emphasis is upon the goal of election, which is to make us heirs.

2. The church is the new Israel, comprised of both Jews and Gentiles, Genesis 12:1-3.

B. Listening and responding to the truth.

1. Ephesians 1:13

2. What does it mean to hear?

- a. Not just listening, but acting upon what is heard.

3. “Having also believed” – equals personal trust.

- a. Process of belief: *Notitia, Assensus, Fides*
- b. Grace and faith are gifts given and not found in natural man – Ephesians 2:8-9.

4. Faith enables belief – Romans 14:23.

C. “Sealed in him with the Holy Spirit”

1. Three senses on how a “seal” is used.

a. Confirms an object.

b. Mark as one’s own property.

c. Makes secure.

2. Each is true of us in Christ.

#### III. The seal as our distinguishing mark in contrast to the Mark of the Beast in Revelation 13.

A. See contrast in Revelation 7:1-3

B. Also, Ephesians 1:13; 4:30.

C. Why the forehead and hand?

1. Deuteronomy 6:6-8

2. The forehead: How we \_\_\_\_\_

3. The hand: How we \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Romans 12:2

D. The beast’s mark

1. Indicates ownership – II Timothy 2:24-26

2. Note the contrast between the children of God, and the children of the devil – I John 3:10; 5:15.

3. This contrast in marks applies to today and not just the future.

E. The number explained – 666

1. 3.

2. 4.

#### IV. Points for Reflection

A. It is God alone who enables us to hear the truth of the Gospel and respond accordingly.

B. We bear the mark of God upon us.

C. Our seal is in contrast to that of the Beast.