

Why the Holy Spirit can't be the earnest of our inheritance

Or why it can't mean "a down payment" or "partial payment" for our inheritance, Eph.1:13,14.

1. Because of the meaning of the word "earnest" in both O.T. & N.T.
 - a. Its basic meaning "to pledge; a surety; an assurance; guarantee
 - b. Vine, II, p.11, "In general usage it came to mean a pledge or earnest of any sort; in the N.T. it is used only of that which is assured of God to believers."
 - c. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance; Young's Analytical Concordance; Wilson's O.T. Word Studies; The Theological Word Book of The O.T., Vol. 2, all recognize the word for "pledge" or "earnest" to mean: "a pawn (given as security), a surety, a pledge, or given as a pledge," and all of them quote Gen.38:17,18,20 among the scripture examples given where it is used. (Cf. Gen.42:15-24,29-37 – Simon kept as a pledge, earnest, assurance that they would bring Benjamin.)
 - (1) Note a one of these sources, in their strict definition of the word "earnest" or "pledge" give it the meaning of "a down payment" or "partial payment" of the Christian's inheritance.
 - (2) Moreover, in Gen.38:17-20 when Judah sought the services of a harlot, he promised her "a kid from the flock" as payment for her services, V.17a.
 - (3) Since he didn't have the kid from the flock with him to give o her, she asked for a "pledge," or an assurance or guarantee that he would fulfill his promise, V.17b.
 - (4) He asked her, "What pledge shall I give thee?" to which she answered, "Thy signet and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thy hand," V.18. Cf. vv.19,20; Vv.21-23; Vv.24,25.
 - (5) As anyone can see, this was not a down-payment, nor a partial payment, but a pledge, or something to assure or

guarantee her that what he promised would be forthcoming.

(6) Therefore, a pledge or earnest is not necessarily part of the purchase-money of something; but is something “given in advance as security for something.

(7) Even Webster’s Dictionary defines:

(a) “Pledge”: Anything given or passed by way of guaranty or security for the performance of some act.”

(b) “Earnest”: Anything which gives assurance, pledge, promise, or indication of what is to follow.”

2. Because of who hath purchased us and of what gives us the earnest or the assurance of our inheritance.

a. Without a doubt the Word of God teaches that Jesus Christ, through his vicarious offering of himself is the one who purchased us, who redeems us.

(1) He made full payment, not partial payment, for the redemption of the faithful.

(2) He didn’t give or send the Holy Spirit to anyone for partial payment for anything.

(3) Because no partial payment of any kind was needed.

(4) But assurance of our redemption and of our inheritance was and is needed and was and is given.

b. But where or how do we have present-day divine assurance of or divine guarantee of redemption through Jesus Christ, if not in or by the written Word, the gospel of Christ.

(1) Today we are divinely assured or our guaranteed that Jesus Christ died to purchase us, but where or how do we have it?

- (a) In the word of God inspired, revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.
 - (b) Not by the Holy Spirit personally dwelling in us in either a miraculous or a non-miraculous manner.
- (2) Today we are divinely assured of or guaranteed that we can have the remission of our past sins on the basis of our meeting certain conditions of salvation, but where or how do we have it?
 - (a) In the word of God inspired, revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.
 - (b) Not by the Holy Spirit's personal indwelling either in a miraculous or a non-miraculous manner.
- (3) Today we are divinely assured of or guaranteed that we can have eternal life, or an eternal inheritance, in heaven at the end of a life of faith, but where or how do we have it?
 - (a) In the Holy Spirit inspired, revealed, confirmed word of God.
 - (b) Not by the Holy Spirit's personal indwelling either in a miraculous or a non-miraculous manner.
- (4) Today we are divinely assured of or guaranteed that we can be, and or that we are, the children of God accepted of Him, but where or how do we have it?
 - (a) In the inspired word of God revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.
 - (b) Not by the Holy Spirit himself, personally, literally and directly dwelling in us either in a miraculous or a non-miraculous manner.
- (5) Today we are divinely assured or guaranteed that we can have "the full assurance of hope unto the end," but where or how do we have it?

- (a) By the word of God.
 - (b) Not by the personal, literal, direct indwelling of the Holy Spirit, either in a miraculous or non-miraculous manner.
- 3. Because to take that position robs the Samaritan Christians of the earnest of their inheritance at the time of their baptism and having received the remission of the past sins and the hope of eternal life because at that point in time they had not received the Holy Spirit in any form according to Ac.8:12-19.
 - a. Didn't the word give them all the assurance they needed before the Apostles laid hands on them and imparted to the Holy Spirit?
- 4. Because if the Holy Spirit is the earnest or down-payment of partial payment on the Christian's inheritance, it raises several questions; such as:
 - a. What is the remainder of the inheritance? Would it not also have to be the same or the Holy Spirit himself since partial payment and final payment are alike in kind?
 - b. Since one would anticipate that the full payment would entail the partial payment and also the remainder, will the Holy Spirit continue to personally indwell after the day of judgment, or will the Christian lose part of his inheritance then?
- 5. The following will help us understand this matter.
 - a. The three persons of the Godhead follow the same pattern in this area as in other areas of their work: (1) The Father plans, (2) the Son executes, and (3) the Holy Spirit reveals and confirms, (4) this we learn through the Scriptures.
 - b. To put it another way:
 - (1) The Father provides the inheritance for the Christian.
 - (2) The Son purchased the inheritance for the Christian.

- (3) The Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed the fact of the inheritance to the Christian.
 - (4) The Holy Spirit-revealed and confirmed scriptures promise, guarantee the inheritance to the Christian.
 - c. This pledge, earnest, assurance, or surety was miraculously delivered in the first century by the Holy Spirit, but has been preserved in the written word, the Scriptures, for all time by God's providence.
6. Because Eph.1:13,14 actually teach that "the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation"... "is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession."
- a. First of all this passage is part of an overall context that teaches that fact. The whole book teaches it.
 - b. Secondly, we note the fact that V.13b is a parenthetical expression, where Paul said: " -- in whom also after that ye believed ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,"
 - (1) Several respected translations recognize it as a parenthetical statement.
 - (2) The ASV, NASV, Berry's Interlinear Literal Translation of The Greek N.T., instead of a colon (:) after "salvation," as in the KJV, have a line ("---") indicating and setting off the last part of V.13 as a parenthetical statement: "...your salvation, -- in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with (or by) the Holy Spirit of promise."
 - (3) If these translations are correct, and we think they are, then Paul is here introducing another thought in a parenthetical statement concerning their being "sealed with (or) the Holy Spirit of promise."
 - (4) Other examples of parenthesis, which are added to introduce another thought or to explain, before going back to the thing being discussed or previously

introduced: Eph.4:8-11; 5:9; Rom.2:13-15; 5:13-17;
Col.2:21,22a; Heb.3:7b-11; 10:23b; 11:38a; 12:20,21;
1Jno.1:2.