

A FORETASTE OF GLORY TO COME

PART 13 EPHESIANS CHAPTER ONE

Ephesians 1:14 Christian Standard Bible **SLIDE**

*The Holy Spirit is **a down payment** of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.*

The Greek word for ‘Down-Payment’ comes from a financial transaction where somebody purchasing something pays an instalment on the item they have purchased until they are able to pay the rest in full.

[the] Down-payment (arrabōn)

Noun - Nominative Masculine Singular **Part of the purchase-money** or property given in advance as security for the rest.

SLIDE

Let's say you sell your house for \$500,000 ...

And a buyer gives you a 10% deposit which is \$50,000 to secure the sale ...

SLIDE THIS \$50,000 IS NOW YOURS; IT'S PAID INTO YOUR ACCOUNT & YOU CAN ACTUALLY SPEND IT AS YOU SEE FIT.

THE REASON I USED THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE IS BECAUSE other versions use THE WORDS ‘PLEDGE OR GUARANTEE’ which doesn't bring out the full meaning. This word is more than just a *pledge or a guarantee*, as a ‘pledge’ **can be paid in another form.**

A person could make you a ‘pledge’ or guarantee with a promissory note ... or a hand-shake ... or some other item you may use to secure or guarantee your possession ...

SLIDE

*E.g. If the person purchasing your house doesn't have cash he may secure the sale with his **‘brand new black BMW’** worth \$50,000. He gives you **his car as a pledge** to secure the house as his until he pays the cost in full, at which time you return the car to him. However, you can't use the car. You can only look at it. Only if the sale falls through is it yours. If, however the buyer comes through with the full payment for the house ... **YOU HAVE TO GIVE HIS ‘BMW’ BACK.***

BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH THIS DOWN-PAYMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. You do not have to give Him back when the final sale

goes through ... it is part of the purchase price and **YOU CAN START TO EXPERIENCE & ENJOY HIM NOW.**

JUST LIKE THE MONETARY DEPOSIT FOR THE HOUSE ... you will be paid the remainder of the price - \$450,000, because you have already received \$50,000 as the first instalment.

The New American Standard Bible actually puts it that way -

Ephesians 1:14 NASB

*Who is **a first instalment** of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

THE OLD KING JAMES VERSION HAD IT RIGHT WHEN THEY CALLED THE HOLY SPIRIT, 'AN EARNEST' OF OUR INHERITANCE.

An Earnest is a strange and archaic word but it is more correct than many other modern translations that use the word, 'Pledge' or 'Guarantee'.

***An Earnest = a portion of something, given or done in advance as a pledge of the remainder** (Dictionary.com)*

We also see this word 'EARNEST' reiterated to the Corinthians -

2 Corinthians 1:22 American Standard Version

*Who also sealed us, and gave us **the earnest** of the Spirit in our hearts.*

Also ...

2 Cor 5:5 KJV

God who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

OUR INHERITANCE

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE DOWN PAYMENT OF OUR INHERITANCE. SO, WHAT IS THE INHERITANCE' PAUL IS REFERRING TO HERE?

WELL FIRSTLY, HE REFERS TO ALL THE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS THAT HE'S WRITTEN ABOUT SINCE VERSE 3

- We begin to EXPERIENCE being holy and blameless before Him in love (v4)
- We begin to ENTER INTO OUR POSITION AS ADOPTED SONS (v5)

- We begin to EXPERIENCE being totally accepted in His beloved Son and just as His beloved Son (v6)
- We begin to EXPERIENCE God's eternal Oneness (v10)
- We begin to EXPERIENCE being God's own inheritance (v11)

AND THIS WILL GO ON UNTIL THE FINAL REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION meaning, the acquisition of *those who are God's possession which is when we will completely enter into all God has for us.*

This is the ultimate Christian hope which we look for when we start to see the end of this world.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE GET A FORETASTE OF OUR INHERITANCE

1 Peter 1:4 Berean Literal Bible

To an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, being reserved in the heavens for you.

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO REVEALS MYSTERIES TO US

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 SLIDE

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!

THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS SAMPLES FROM A FAR COUNTRY FOR US

JUST LIKE AN ANCIENT EXPLORER

E.g. The Italian explorer Marco Polo (1254–1324) first ventured to Asia in 1266, and discovered and sent back to Italy exotic merchandise and foods of the faraway lands of China (then called Cathay), India and the Spice Islands (the Moluccas).

The same was true of Sir Francis Drake to Elizabeth in England ...

LOOK AT SOME OF THESE SAMPLES THAT HAVE COME TO US ...

Hebrews 6:4-5 **SLIDE**

... Those who were once *enlightened*, and have *tasted the heavenly gift [salvation]*, and have become *partakers of the Holy Spirit*, ⁵and have *tasted the good word [rhema] of God and the powers of the age to come* ...

TASTED THE POWERS OF THE WORLD TO COME

NB: Not just touch but ... taste the flavour ... savour it ... sample it ... ingest it ...and experience it ...

There are things coming which we do not yet know or understand here with our limited thinking ... **BUT WE NOW CAN GET A TASTE OF THESE THINGS ... AND IT OPENS US UP TO THE WORLD TO COME ...**

We can begin to experience Heaven on earth through the Holy Spirit – things we have never seen, heard, tasted, felt or experienced ...

A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE

**SO HOW DO WE BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE
A 'FORETASTE' OF THIS GLORY NOW UPON THE EARTH?**

*Does it happen when I'm walking and praying?
Does it happen when I'm reading the Scriptures?
Or singing praise to God?*

I'm sure we can begin to perceive something of this at those times

**BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE & WHEN THIS WILL BEGIN TO
HAPPEN IN GREATER GLORY AS WE COME TO THAT DAY?**

THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF THE FORETASTE

NB: Most of the pronouns used in Ephesians are plural (we, you...)
That's because Ephesians is about His Church on Earth.

IT ALL HAPPENS IN THE CHURCH ...

**THE FORETASTE OF HEAVEN IS EXPERIENCED AS HIS HOLY
SPIRIT FLOWS THROUGH HIS 'BODY' ON EARTH**

Matthew 18:20 **SLIDE**

For where two or three are gathered together into My name, I am there in the midst of them.

WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER IN HONOUR OF THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST ...
THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD MANIFESTS AMONG US

When we come together **into** Jesus name there is a manifestation of Heaven among us ...

This is the down-payment of what is to come – the earnest.

1 Corinthians 14:25-26 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

And the secrets of [a stranger's] heart will be made known. So he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, "God is truly among you!" ²⁶ *What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a psalm or a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. All of these must be done to build up the church.*

BRING YOUR LIGHT INTO THE HOUSE

Matthew 5:15 Berean Study Bible

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER IS CALLED TO BRING HIS PERSONAL LIGHT INTO THE HOUSE ... AND THE COLLECTIVE LIGHT OF THE HOUSE WILL THEN SHINE INTO THE WORLD AS A CITY ON A HILL THAT CANNOT BE HID.

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO BE A LONE CANDLE FLICKERING IN THE DARK.
*The sadness and folly of 'The Emergent Church' as they try and make the church like the world in order to be relevant ...
But in the end, who can tell the difference?*

IT'S FOLLY ...

THE CHURCH IS DIFFERENT TO ANYTHING THIS WORLD CAN OFFER. IT IS A BLAZING LIGHT UPON A HILL SHINING INTO A DARKENED WORLD ...

YOU CAN NEVER HAVE A GREATER CONTRAST ...

AND THE LIGHT IS HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE AMONG IS.

THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE SAMPLE OF HEAVEN!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AVAILABLE ... WE DO NOT REALISE WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN HERE ALREADY ...

ISO-CHURCH

We thank God for the connections we have gained through the internet – which all came about because of the isolation here. So many more people can now see us and hear our message. People comment ... and we can correspond ...

BUT THIS IS NOT THE GREATEST THING ...

IT'S GREAT THAT PEOPLE JOIN US FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT WATCHING CHURCH IS NOT THE GREATEST THING. IT CANNOT GIVE US THE FORETASTE OF HEAVEN THAT GATHERING TOGETHER CAN ...

THERE IS NOT A GREATER EXPERIENCE OF THE TASTE OF HEAVEN THAN WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER IN HIS NAME ...
It is where He manifests among us ... flows from us and into us ... embraces us ...

In physical fellowship we begin to experience one another spiritually ... through our looks ... our smiles ... our hugs ... our frowns ... He flows through us in our words ... intonations ... facial expressions ...

WE START TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER ...
WE START TO ENJOY ONE ANOTHER AT A DEEPER LEVEL ...
WE BEGIN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER TO A GREATER DIMENSION.

We receive comfort ... encouragement ... and strength ... from outside ourselves ... among us ...

The chatter rises as incense in the atmosphere ...

OUR DESIRE FOR FULL FELLOWSHIP SHOULD BE AS PAUL'S

Romans 1:10-12 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*In my prayers at all times, asking that now at last by God's will I may succeed in **coming to you.** ¹¹For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, ¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

THIS IS BRINGING OUR LIGHT INTO THE HOUSE

THE PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM CAN BE:

MANY CHOOSE TO NOT ATTEND CHURCH ANYMORE because they have only seen the church as a place of religious ambition ... where the greater dominate the lesser ... or a place where the rich and famous parade their wealth and success ... where you get 'THE HAVES & HAVE-NOTS' ...

NOT A PLACE WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS & MINISTERS HIS GLORY.

But there are fellowships that follow the Holy Spirit's leading and have a foretaste of Heaven ...

Celestial Fruits on Earthly Ground

*The men of grace have found ... Glory begun below ...
Celestial fruits on earthly ground ... From faith and hope may grow.*

*The hill of Zion yields ... A thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields ... Or walk the golden streets.*

*Then let our songs abound ... And every tear be dry ...
We're marching through Immanuel's ground ...
To fairer worlds on high.* (Isaac Watts 1806)

Revelation 21:4 tells of heaven where God will wipe away all tears.

By the down-payment of the Holy Spirit we can begin to experience this here and now ...

HE COMFORTS US IN OUR SADNESS ...

HE STRENGTHENS US IN OUR WEAKNESS ...

The down payment of our inheritance is ours, so that we can experience a Foretaste of Glory Divine ...

SEE THE FOLLOWING OTHER HEAVENLY EXPERIENCES we can begin to experience here and now:

Revelation 21:6-7 - The fountain of eternal satisfaction and pleasure.

Psalm 16:11 - In your presence is the fullness of joy ... pleasures forevermore.

Revelation 21:23 - Eternal glory that shines brighter than 10 million suns and doesn't burn you

