

SAINTS, BE ENCOURAGED (PART II)

ACTS 16:40, EPHESIANS 1:7-14

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Paul encouraged the new Christians at Philippi. He, as well as you, could do this by teaching them their identity in Christ.

YOU ARE REDEEMED. “Sin is man’s captor and slave owner, and it demands a price for his release. Death is the price that had to be paid for man’s redemption from sin. Biblical redemption therefore refers to the act of God by which He Himself paid as a ransom the price of sin.” John MacArthur, *Acts*, p. 18. (**Ephesians 1:7, fn 1:7, Romans 3:24, fn 3:24, Hebrews 9:12-14, fn 9:12, I Peter 1:18-19, fn 1:18, 19, Titus 2:14, fn 2:14**) *Using an analogy of a pawnshop, how would you explain to your family the redemption of a handmade possession that had belonged to you?*

YOU ARE FORGIVEN. In Adam we were sinners by inheritance. In Christ our sins are forgiven, and who we were in Adam is now replaced by who we are in Christ. Our God now sees us in Christ, not as sinners, but as saints (holy ones). (**Ephesians 1:7-8, fn 1:7, 8, Romans 5:14-19, fn 5:15-19, Colossians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, Colossians 3:3, II Corinthians 5:17-21, fn 5:21, Psalms 103:12, fn 103:12, Isaiah 43:25, fn 43:25, Galatians 2:20, fn 2:20**) *How does knowing that you are forgiven encourage you in your relationship with Christ?*

YOU ARE SEALED. The possession of the Holy Spirit is the seal which shows that you belong to God. This “seal of the Spirit” is your guarantee that you have eternal life. (**Ephesians 1:9-14, fn 1:13, 14, II Corinthians 1:21, 22, fn 1:21, 22, II Corinthians 5:5, fn 5:5, Romans 5:5, John 14:21, fn 14:19-21**) *How has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you are sealed with the Spirit and belong to God?*

*Extra Bonus: From the past two preparations, name seven things that are true about all who are in Christ. Give up? See **Ephesians 1**.*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?

