

# Lesson 2B

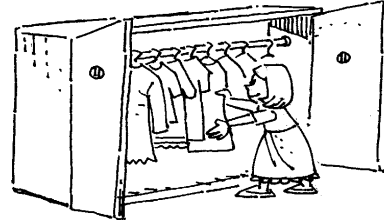
## Three Special Blessings (Ephesians 1:4-14)



**A**  
**I have redeemed him**  
**(set him free)**



**B**  
**I will seal this**



**C**  
**I choose this one**

1. Read Ephesians 1:4-14, where we find some more of God's spiritual blessings. We can divide the passage into three parts; each ends with "*To the praise of his glory (or glorious grace)*".

In which verses do we find this phrase?

Verses \_\_, \_\_ & \_\_

2. As the "praise" verses end each section, we find that:

- Section 1 is from vs.4 to 6
- Section 2 is from vs.7 to 12
- Section 3 is from vs.13 to 14

We have selected a key word for each of the three blessings, one in each section. These are: "**chosen**", "**redeemed**" and "**sealed**". In our last Study we noted that it is God who blesses us; now we shall see that God the **Father**, God the **Son** and God the **Holy Spirit** all unite to bless us.

- a) In Section 1, who **chose** us to be his sons? God the \_\_\_\_\_
- b) In Section 2, who has **redeemed** us? God the \_\_\_\_\_
- c) In Section 3 the **seal** of ownership is given through God the \_\_\_\_\_

Now let's look at these in more detail.

### Answers

1. 6, 12, 14
2. a) Father  
b) Son  
c) Holy Spirit

**A. Chosen by God the Father (vs.4-6)**

3. We are chosen by God the Father, who for his own pleasure and purpose has made us his a) \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5). Not only that, he chose us before the creation of the b) \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4).
4. What a privilege to be chosen by God! In some countries the supreme ruler chooses to honor some of their subjects for services they have performed for the State. But our honor and privilege are greater than theirs! We are not chosen by an earthly king or queen but by a) \_\_\_\_\_. We are not chosen because of things we have done but because of God's b) \_\_\_\_\_ (end of Eph. 1:4). We do not just visit a palace to receive a reward but are chosen to stay with the King as his c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:5).
5. To be chosen as God's sons brings us into a whole new relationship. When Paul wrote Ephesians, Roman households had both slaves and sons, who might grow up together as children. But in his letters to the Romans and to the Galatians, he points out that slaves do not really belong; they may be cast out or sold. Sons have a secure, stable relationship; they belong. We are not chosen to be God's a) \_\_\_\_\_ but his b) \_\_\_\_\_. In both Romans and Ephesians, Paul goes on to say we are to call God "Father". The Holy God has become our loving heavenly Father! The original word used in both letters is "Abba", like our "Daddy". So we may go into his presence with all freedom and c) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 3:12).
6. We do not have this loving relationship with God as Father by our natural birth, but by our spiritual birth. But in Ephesians 1:5 Paul uses a different word again. He speaks of our adoption as sons. This refers to a Roman custom, not of adopting a baby, but of a young man, as son and heir.
- Here Paul means that we are chosen (only one is right):
- a. to remain babes in the heavenly nursery.
  - b. to be mature sons and heirs.
  - c. to be heirs because of our natural birth.
7. God has chosen us to be mature sons in his family. Indeed, we are to be a) l \_\_\_\_\_ his Son (Rom. 8:29). Ephesians 1:4 shows us that this means being holy and blameless, as Jesus was. So, as in human families, there is to be a family b) li \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In Romans 8:17 Paul adds that we are...
- "...Heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ..."*

Continued

**Answers**

- |            |               |             |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 3. a) sons | 5. a) slaves  | 6. b.       |
| b) world   | b) sons       | 7. a) like  |
| 4. a) God  | c) confidence | b) likeness |
| b) love    |               |             |
| c) sons    |               |             |

8. Continued.  
How amazing! Becoming like God's Son, Jesus, and being treated like him as a co-heir confirms that God has brought us into his a) f\_\_\_\_\_ and therefore desires to see something of the family b) l\_\_\_\_\_ in each one of us.

**B. Redeemed by God the Son (vs. 7-12)**

9. Now we turn to our second blessing. The Greek word translated "redeemed" means "set free from some evil at great cost". The great cost is explained in Ephesians 1:7 as being the shedding of his a)\_\_\_\_\_. Now turn to Revelation 1:5b. The great evil from which we are redeemed (set free) is our c)\_\_\_\_\_.



10. Romans 6:6 says we were a)\_\_\_\_\_ to sin, e.g. many people are chained by habits of drinking, drugs or smoking and cannot break the habit. The good news is that Christ has paid the great cost and by shedding his b)\_\_\_\_\_ on the cross he has set us c)\_\_\_\_\_ from this kind of d) sl\_\_\_\_\_. Now the e)\_\_\_\_\_ of sin (see picture) are broken.

11. Drugs and drink may not be our problem. But what about freedom from the slavery of:
- criticism
  - bad temper
  - making excuses
  - telling lies
  - grumbling
  - moodiness

Only \_\_\_\_\_ can set us free from these sins. Pray about any of the above list from which you need to ask him to set you free. Also ask God to show you any other sins that may be enslaving you.

12. Another result of sin is guilt. Guilt is a) [a crushing / light] burden (see picture) that God never intended man to bear. It is often the cause of depression or even of mental illness. What does Romans 8:1 tell us about this? In Christ there is no condemnation. This means that the great price that Christ paid has set us free from both the b) sl\_\_\_\_\_ (chains) and the c) gu\_\_\_\_\_ (burden) of sin.



**Answers**

- |              |               |                 |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 8. a) family | 10. a) slaves | 11. Christ      |
| b) likeness  | b) blood      | 12. a) crushing |
| 9. a) blood  | c) free       | b) slavery      |
| b) sin       | d) slavery    | c) guilt        |
|              | e) chains     |                 |

13. Ephesians 1:7 says that being redeemed (set free) means our sins are forgiven. Forgiveness speaks of restored relationships. In Isaiah 59:2 we read that our iniquities (sins) separate us from God. But in 1 Peter 3:18 Christ a) \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins in order to bring us to God. So forgiveness means our relationship with God, that was broken by sin, is now b) re \_\_\_\_\_.

### C. Sealed by God the Holy Spirit (vs. 13,14)

14. Finally, in Ephesians 1:13b we read that God has marked us with his a) \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Corinthians 1:22 explains that this is a seal of b) \_\_\_\_\_. Once again we are reminded that we c) \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Lesson 1B.6-8).
15. In the secular world we see the “seal of ownership” in a farmer branding his animals or the official seal in a passport saying that we belong to a particular country. Jesus received that “seal” at his baptism when, as a dove, the a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mat. 3:16) came upon him and God said “*This is b) \_\_\_\_\_, whom I love.*” (v. 17)
16. This “seal of ownership”, God’s Holy Spirit, assures us that we belong to God. Satan tries to make us doubt that we are God’s. Even to Jesus, he said “*If you are the Son of God ...*” As the Accuser he comes to us saying “How can you be a child of God if you behave like that?” or “If you really belonged to God, this would not have happened.” Romans 8:16 tells us that God’s a) \_\_\_\_\_ testifies with our spirit to reassure us that we are b) \_\_\_\_\_’s children.
17. The farmer brands his animals so that he and other people can know the owner. Our “seal” is also given so that other people will know to whom we belong. So John the Baptist said that he recognized who Jesus was when he saw the a) \_\_\_\_\_ come down and remain on him (John 1:33b). Similarly, to be recognized as disciples of Christ we need the seal of his b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8).
18. From an entirely different angle, we even find that the “seal of ownership” of the Holy Spirit was recognized in the supernatural world. Jesus was recognized as God’s holy messenger by an a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:23,24) and in Ephesus, Paul too was recognized by an b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 19:15).

## Answers

- |              |                    |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 13. a) died  | 15. a) Holy Spirit | 17. a) Spirit      |
| b) restored  | b) my Son          | b) Holy Spirit     |
| 14. a) seal  | 16. a) Spirit      | 18. a) evil spirit |
| b) ownership | b) God’s           | b) evil spirit     |
| c) belong    |                    |                    |

19. In 2B.15 we noted that the official seal in our passport shows that we belong to a certain country; it is a seal of ownership. However, we may have other seals in our passport that mean something else!

A young missionary waited for months for a visa to enter a “closed” country where the Lord had called her to work. One day her passport came back with a brand new seal. This was not a seal of ownership but the visa, a guarantee that she could now enter this country; it was therefore a promise for her future life.

Ephesians 1:14 says that the Holy Spirit, too, is the a) \_\_\_\_\_ that we shall receive the b) \_\_\_\_\_ God has promised us.

20. Ephesians 4:30 reminds us that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption. 2 Corinthians 1:22 adds that God “...set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

The “seal” of the Holy Spirit is therefore both his seal of a) o \_\_\_\_\_ upon us and God’s b) g \_\_\_\_\_ of future blessings.

21. Now let’s return to the three pictures at the top of the Title Page (page 24) Notice how each picture has a descriptive phrase under it. The pictures are in a different order from the Bible order. Now write down which picture, A, B or C, illustrates:

- a) Section 1: vs. 4-6 Picture \_\_\_\_
- b) Section 2: vs. 7-12 Picture \_\_\_\_
- c) Section 3: vs.13-14 Picture \_\_\_\_

22. Now review Lesson 2B and do Test 2B without looking back to this study.

## Answers

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19. a) guarantee  
b) inheritance

20. a) ownership  
b) guarantee

21. a) C  
b) A  
c) B