



SEALED TO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION

There are many ways in which goods are protected from would-be thieves and vandals. Surveillance cameras, locks, motion detectors, alarms, sentries, electronic i.d. devices, and seals such as is used in the trucking industry are just a few examples.

An equal number of counter measures have been invented by criminal elements to neutralize detection—cutting off power, blocking camera lenses, knowing the routine of sentries, breaking of seals—such methods are often more successful than one would like to admit.

With the initiation of credit, debit and photo i.d. cards, a new widespread industry has arisen, that of i.d. theft. It has been seen in stores, gas stations, online hacking, and even a proximity device used to detect card information carried on one's person in a pocket while in a parking lot is now one further invasion of one's privacy, protection and possession of valuables.

Is anything or anybody really “safe”? One biblical writer summarized these very times as “perilous” (the Greek term [χάλεποι](#), 2 Timothy 3:1). Romans 8:28 describes “all things (for the one trusting the Lord) work together for good. . .” But almost with a note of irony, Matthew 8:28 records the God-man as being confronted by two men who were demon-possessed coming out of the tombs exceedingly “fierce” (same word: violent, dangerous, hard to deal with). Jesus dealt with the demons after which those in the city “begged Him to depart from their region” (8:34). Is it not more ironic that the only solution and safety in a context of violence and savagery is rejected?

Our Lord does not naively turn a blind eye to trouble and difficulty. Physical discomfort, pain, persecution and perils are part of the consequences of not taking God at His word when He warns of the wages of choosing the wrong path. Just three chapters later our Great Shepherd offers this to the weary and downtrodden: “Come unto Me, all

you who labor are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30; cf. Luke 7:36-37). We are safe in the midst of all circumstances (Romans 8:18-22, 35).

It is at this point absolutely essential for every individual to know of God’s warrantee program for the believer. A warrantee is only as good as the guarantee of the issuer which leads us to the focus of this document. Each and every believer in Jesus Christ is sealed by the Holy Spirit guaranteeing the perpetuity of the one to whom the seal is attached. Often one will encounter a disclaimer which looks like this:



To grasp the multiple parameters of the Seal of the Holy Spirit, several applications stand out in the New Testament that address all the issues of this teaching. Misunderstanding at this juncture will lead to unnecessary anxiety of a Christian’s stability in being assured that what God began in us, He will complete (See Philippians 1:6 below).



What God’s Seal Is All About

(a) The Holy Spirit is our “Seal”. A paraphrase of Ephesians 4:30 states, “Stop grieving the Holy Spirit of God in Whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.” The verb is σφραγίζω (sphragidzo). Its tense emphasizes a one time finished event (at the point of the beginning of our redemption in which we were indwelt by the Holy Spirit). God put His seal upon us in a once-for-all time completed act. The believer will never get *more* of the 3rd person of the Godhead. But He does need to “get more” of us, otherwise we would not need the exhortation to stop grieving Him. (see also 1:13)

(b) That Seal is His “down payment”. Paul declares that the Holy Spirit “is the *guarantee* (Greek: ἀρραβὼν¹ (Eph. 1:14) of our inheritance unto the redemption of the purchased possession.”

¹“a legal and commercial technical term, an advance transaction that guarantees the validity of a contract or a full purchase price *down payment, first installment, pledge*; figuratively in the NT, of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers.” (BibleWorks comment on Ephesians 1:13).

(c) His Seal has a multiple significance for every child of God. Dr. Kenneth Wuest in commenting on Eph. 1:13 writes: “The papyri afford the following examples of its (σφραγιζω) use: ‘If fruit is sealed, then everything is in order: the sealing is the last thing that must be done prior to delivering;’ ‘let him seal a sample,’ obviously to prevent the corn from being tampered with during its transit; ‘I gave the letter sealed (to the messenger);’ ‘send the ass to be *branded*’ . . . In the symbolism of Scripture a seal signifies (1) **A finished transaction** (Jer. 32:9, 10; John 17:4; 19:30), (2) **Ownership** (Jer. 32:11, 12; 2 Tom. 2:19), (3) **Security** (Esther 8:8 Dan. 6:17; Eph. 4:30).’ Thus, God places the holy Spirit in us permanently: ‘The Spirit who has been caused to take up His permanent residence in us, has a passionate desire to the point of envy’ (James 4:5), indicating that the great transaction in which God the Son paid for sin, thus satisfying the just demand of God’s holy law, is finished; that we saints belong to Him as His heritage, and that we are *eternally secure*.” And this is just the ‘down payment’ or ‘earnest money’ “deposited by a purchaser in pledge of full payment.” See further commentary of Eph. 1:14 by Wuest.

This, by far, is the most significant refutation and condemnation of any sacramental system that says payments must still be made to be acceptable and justified before God. That is why this extensive commentary is provided. It is *the* essential signet of God’s full acceptance of all who trust in Jesus Christ.

(d) But, cannot the “warranty” be voided if the seal is removed? Yes! However, the key word is “if” which is contrary to fact since the Holy Spirit is Himself the seal.

- “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:11)
- “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you *for ever*;” (John 14:16)
- “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Romans 8:9)



Conclusion:

First, our loving and merciful God knows the weaknesses of the believer, and provided in His blueprint for man everything needed for our physical and spiritual life on this earth:

“As His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Second, He has provided the irrevocable warranty of His abiding presence that guarantees (1) that the transaction of our redemption is fully “funded” by His provision and gift of the Holy Spirit; (2) that we are His forever; and (3) that we are secure in the knowledge of His down payment of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Third, the child of God need never to be concerned as to whether God will finish what He began in us. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6)

Fourth, With all the uncertainties surrounding us in the contemporary world, and the increase of violence, we are (1) *assured* of our security in Him; (2) have been *forewarned* of the repetition of the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37; Luke 17:26) and Lot (Luke 17:28); 2 Timothy 3:1-4:4, *et al*; (3) have been given the complete picture of *God’s blueprint* for the future (book of Revelation); and (4) are in *great expectancy* of the imminent upward call of the saints in the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9; 1; Corinthians 15:51-58).

The true believer is fully aware of the potential of martyrdom and brutal hatred of opponents of the Gospel, while at the same time adheres to the authority of His Word. “Even so, come Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

SEAL
of



OWNERSHIP
PROTECTION
SECURITY
DELIVERY