

2 Corinthians 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Analysis

Who hath also sealed us (σφραγισάμενος ἡμᾶς)—sphragisamenos (σφραγισάμενος, "sealing") evokes ownership mark (Rev 7:3), authentication (John 6:27), commercial security (Matt 27:66). Aorist participle: definitive past act with ongoing effect. Believers bear God's seal.

And given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts—arrabōna (ἄρραβώνα, "down payment/pledge/guarantee") is commercial term for first installment guaranteeing full payment. The Spirit is both pledge and sample: we possess now (en tais kardiais, in hearts) a foretaste of full inheritance (Rom 8:23, Eph 1:14).

Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do I recognize the Spirit's presence as God's 'seal'—His ownership mark and authentication?
2. How does viewing the Spirit as 'down payment' shape expectations—present reality and future fullness?
3. What Spirit-deposit am I experiencing now that guarantees future resurrection and glorification?

Interlinear Text

ταῖς καὶ σφραγισάμενος ἡμᾶς καὶ δοὺς ταῖς ἀρράβωνα
Who **also** **hath** **us** **also** **given** **Who** **the earnest**
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ταῖς πνεύματος ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν
Who **of the Spirit** **in** **Who** **hearts** **our**
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Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:30 (Spirit): And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 5:5 (Spirit): Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

John 6:27 (Parallel theme): Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Revelation 9:4 (Parallel theme): And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

Romans 8:23 (Spirit): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:9 (Spirit): 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.

Revelation 2:17 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 7:3 (Parallel theme): Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Romans 4:11 (Parallel theme): And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.