

sal-7

Our #sal-7 is a bit more "academic" than most of our other editorials. We've tried several ways to remedy that, but have, so far, drawn a blank. The info it offers is truly critical so, even if you need to put it aside to study later, we really hope you'll do that. You'll want to have your Bible open. Try to have a KJV Bible handy, too, and a good Bible Dictionary. If you like, we will be happy to direct you to some great online resources, too.

#sal-7 —



From #sal-6 —

At what point is a person "Saved?" We hope the word picture we shared in article #6 will be helpful to you as we share the following critical insight from the scriptures.

Hypothetically again... You are the person on that raft in those rough seas. When you reach to grab the rope ladder, someone yells, "If you will climb that ladder into the ship, you will be saved and you will never ever need to get saved at sea again!"

Once you are onboard the ship, that same voice reassures you, "It's true! You can venture out onto the roughest waters on the planet as often as you like, now, and you'll never again need a rescue ship to save you."

Early on a Sunday morning, I watched a popular Atlanta pastor on TV. His sermon was about the value of "kindness" as a mindset and a lifestyle. Made good sense, but something he said grabbed my attention. It was his comment on this verse:

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

"If you are unkind or if you allow corrupt communication to proceed out of your mouth [v. 29] you will grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom you are forever sealed." Except that I'm doing my homework (i.e.: studying to become approved unto God, per 2 Timothy 2:15), that preacher's "forever sealed" phrase would likely not have gotten my attention.

I recalled the extensive scholarly research and analysis of the Salvation scriptures by our Link1™ Bible Research Team. Among other critical discoveries for us was this: There are three (3) New Testament Greek words that the KJV translators rendered "seal," "seals" or "sealed." Just ONE of them is defined by Strong's...Concordance of the Bible as...

1. to cover with a seal
2. to close up
3. close with a seal

That word, *katasphragizō*, is Strong's G-2696. It appears just once in the original New Testament texts, at Revelation 5:1.

The Greek word that the KJV scholars translated, *sealed*, at Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22 and Ephesians 1:3-14 is G-4972, *sphragizō*, is a verb. Strong's defines it simply as "to mark with a seal." Strong's defines a closely related Greek word for "sealed," *sphragis*, (G-4973, a noun) like this:

1. the seal placed upon books
2. a signet ring
3. the inscription or impression made by a seal
4. the name of God and Christ stamped upon the foreheads of the elect...[for I.D. only], as at Revelation 7:2,3
5. that by which anything is confirmed, proved, authenticated, as by a seal: a token or proof

When a person accepts Christ as Lord and Master of his life (and his lifestyle) he receives a seal of **Identification** with Christ. Is that person, then, "saved" for all eternity? To learn the answer, let's revisit Ephesians 4:30:

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed^a unto the day of redemption^b.

^aidentified
^bsalvation

So! the day of redemption is The Day of Salvation. It is the day when all people will face the judgment seat of Christ. No one will be "saved" or "not saved" until then.

I know that's a hard pill to swallow. It was hard for me, too: I grew up singing, "I'm Saved and I Know That I Am!"

The identifying mark for those who continue to uphold their commitment to follow Christ is the Holy Spirit. That seal (i.e.: mark of identification with Christ and Christ-likeness) is our down payment or first

installment [KJV: "earnest"] on our *future* inheritance of Salvation. (2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5 and Ephesians 1:14 [KJV])
NOTE— In real estate, a person who receives earnest money will lose it if he fails to live up to his end of an agreement.

Aren't all those people who have preceded us in death either in Heaven or in Hell?

Question—

If there is just one Judgment (later) by what rationale might anybody be in Heaven or Hell today?

The *sons of God* at Genesis 6 "and after that" are bound in chains to await The Judgment, But they aren't in Hell.

Question—

Remember where Jesus was for three days and three nights after He died on the cross? He was where those *sons of God* are. Jesus went there to let them know that He (not their hero, Satan) has eternal possession of the keys to Death and Hell. (See Matthew 12:40 for the location. See 1 Peter 3:19 for confirmation.)

He also went there to share the Gospel message with all the people who had *gone to sleep* before His crucifixion:

...the gospel [was] preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Peter 4:6

