



Article Title— "Eternally SEALED?"

Article Category— Practical Christianity



Early on a Sunday morning, my wife and I watched an enormously popular Atlanta pastor on TV. His sermon was about the eternal value of adopting "kindness" as a mindset and a lifestyle. Good sermon, but something grabbed my attention...his comment about a scripture he had quoted:

- > "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." —Paul, at Ephesians 4:30
- He continued with verses 31 and 32:
- > "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

It was his follow-up commentary on verse 30, though, that set off the sirens in my head. It went something like this: "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 (studying to show myself approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed) that pastor'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. If you are a teacher of or a believer in the gospel according to John Calvin, and also sincere in your desire to know the truth, I think you'll want to study that document. Follow this HOTLINK to request it: www.Link1.info/contact-us. (If clicking on that link doesn't work, just copy-n-paste it into your web browser window.)

Eternally Sealed?

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 Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible as...

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

That Greek word, *katasphragizō*, is Strong's **G-2696**. It appears just ONCE in the original New Testament text, 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" (G-4973, *sphragis*, 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 identification only] – as at Rev. 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 to that question, revisit Ephesians 4:30:

- > "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed [*i.e.*: 'identified'] unto the day of redemption [*i.e.*: the day of 'salvation']."

The day of redemption, a.k.a. the day of "salvation," is the day when all people will face the judgment seat of Christ. No one will be declared "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!"—even in children's church.

- > "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things DONE in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." —Paul, at 2 Corinthians 5:10

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



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If you're wondering about those people (righteous and unrighteous) who will have already experienced death when that time comes, that's when they'll be judged, too.

- > "...for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed." —Paul, at Romans 13:11
 - > "...for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee..." —Paul, at 1 Timothy 4:16
- But...but...but weren't we all taught that preacher Timothy was already "saved?"

Hence, the identifying "seal" for those who are to uphold their ongoing commitment to actually FOLLOW Christ is the Holy Spirit. That "seal" [i.e.: that mark of identification with Christ and Christ-likeness] is our down payment or token or first installment [KJV: "earnest"] on that promised future inheritance of "salvation." It is NOT a binding seal of "closure." If it were, then the Greek word from which it was translated would have been *katasphragizō*, Strong's G-2696.


- > "Discernment is telling the difference between right and almost right!" —C. H. Spurgeon

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

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