

Weekly Devotion for November 2, 2020
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“Safe and Secure”

Today I would like to draw your attention to Ephesians 1:13-14. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Have you ever forgotten your password? Everything online these days requires a password from back accounts to emails. Even ordering a silly pizza requires a password anymore. Everything online requires you to “create an account” which means you have to give your email and a password. The whole point of having a password is to make my account secure. I can’t remember my password for half of the things I have passwords for which is why I started writing them down over ten years ago. So, I spend a lot of time resetting my password all for the sake of security and safety.

But how safe are passwords anyway? It seems that there is always a breach of some big company where millions of costumers’ information have been stolen. Maybe you didn’t know this but there is actually an annual convention in Los Vegas that focuses on hacking called Defcon. They teach and promote the hacking of everything from computers, to high tech cars, thermostats, and anything that has a computer in it along with non-technical things like losing a police tail. Crazy thing is...Federal law enforcement agents from various intelligence agencies regularly attend this event and even lead some of the break-out sessions.

Security is a big problem especially when there are so many ‘roaring lions looking for someone to devour’ (1 Peter 5:8). The little country church back in Illinois were told by their insurance company that for the first time the church will be required to lock its doors if they want to remain insured. Locally, the dealership in Greenville, had to start locking all of their cars. Up until recently they were allowed to leave the keys in them and let people look inside. But their insurance company said the same thing as the little church in Illinois, “Lock it up.”

People look for security in relationships, in money, in social media, and elections. This week we are voting again for President. One or the other makes us feel safer. Generally, one or the other feels threatening when the topic comes up so people seem to want to vote for which every candidate makes them feel more secure.

Deep down however we know that security is not something this world can guarantee because there are too many little devils trying to dismantle our security. It’s a fall world. Ephesians 1:13-14 does however remind us one place that is so secure that nothing can hack it, undo it, block it, nor destroy it. It says, “When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession...”

The Roman soldiers put a seal over Jesus’ tomb, most likely Pilate’s seal. Often those like Pilate would have a signet ring that would be stamped into wax, like the wax seal over Jesus’ tomb. The seal was a sign of authority. But Pilate had no authority over Jesus. The seal of the Holy Spirit marks us as God’s people by the highest of authorities. Not even death has authority to keep us.

What's more the Holy Spirit is only a deposit, a pledge that Jesus will keep His promise in the resurrection to take with Him all who believe. And what a deposit! The Holy Spirit is the presence of God making us into His temples. And where God is present so is all of heaven. In Romans 8:16, Paul says, "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God." And what do children of God get? An eternal inheritance to be in the Father's House. 1 John 3:2 says this, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

So, take stock in this. Heaven is already unlocked for you in Jesus' cross and resurrection because you already hold the key, which is faith in Jesus. Heaven doesn't need a secret password to keep out the bad stuff because nothing that can hurt us can touch what Jesus offers. Not even the devil in all of his scheming and tempting can break heaven's security. God has given us the greatest security in the presence of His Holy Spirit as a deposit. And that's my favorite part. A deposit was not something we had to give but something we receive by God's grace. It's coming and not even death has any authority over us because of it. This is our greatest security—Jesus has overcome the world and in Jesus we have too, therefore we do not have to be afraid.

Announcements

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with His favor and give you His peace in Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Matt Woods
John 3:30