

The Harvester



*Preparing Souls
To Serve The Lord!*



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WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THAT THE WORD OF GOD DOES NOT

Brian R. Kenyon

In the discussion of the work of the Holy Spirit, among faithful brethren, it is common for some to present lists that show whatever the Holy Spirit does, the word of God also does. For example, the Holy Spirit “convicts” (Jn. 16:8, NJK), and the word of God “convicts” (Titus 1:9). The conclusion is then drawn: since the Holy Spirit does what the word of God does, it is the word of God that does everything the Holy Spirit is said to do. While it is true the Holy Spirit never does anything contrary to the Godhead’s will, there are some things the Bible teaches the Holy Spirit does that the word of God does not.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES INTERCESSION

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom. 8:26-27)

The Christian’s weaknesses include sometimes not knowing what to pray for nor how to pray for it (cf. 2 Cor. 12:6-10), but in spite of human weaknesses, the God within the Christian (Rom. 8:9-11) makes intercession for him or her to the God in heaven. “Intercession” is translated from a word (*huperentugchano*, ὑπερεντυγχάνω) that means to intercede, plead for someone. It is a picturesque word of rescue

by one who “happens on” another who is in trouble and “in his behalf” pleads with groanings that defy words to one who can help (cf. the good Samaritan). Romans 8:26 is the only verse to use this Greek word. Romans 8:34, speaking of Jesus’ interceding on the Christian’s behalf uses a different but similar word (from *entugchano*, ἐντυγχάνω, also in Rom. 8:27; Acts 25:24; Rom. 11:2; Heb. 7:25). God receives these “groanings” as acceptable prayer because they come from a human spirit wherein dwells the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11). He who searches the mind is God (cf. Jer. 17:9-10). Since God knows the Christian’s mind and the Spirit’s intercession on behalf of the Christian, God will give Christians the strength they need to endure the struggle until final salvation. Although the Spirit’s intercession is always in accordance with God’s word, the word of God is never said to intercede on behalf of the Christian in prayer!

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²²who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14)

The word translated “sealed” (from *sphragizo*, σφραγίζω) can be literal in reference to sealing (Mt. 27:66; Rom. 15:28; Rev. 20:3) (this section adapted from Schippers 499). The word can also be used figuratively to “seal” in the sense of confirm or authenticate (Jn. 3:33; 6:27). In First Corinthians 9:2, Paul used the noun (*sphragis*, σφραγίς) to show that the existence of the Corinthian church confirmed the legitimacy of his apostleship (cf. 2 Cor. 3:1-3).

Paul connected “sealing” with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14). This “sealing” takes place at the moment a person obeys the Gospel (cf. 1 Cor. 6:11; 12:13 [cf. Acts 2:38]). While Ephesians 1:13 relates “being sealed” with or by the Holy Spirit (cf. Eph. 4:30) to the whole conversion event, Second Corinthians 1:21-22 looks on conversion as God’s “anointing” converts “in Christ” and associates it with receiving the pledge of the Spirit, which is a down payment guaranteeing the day of redemption (Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22). In “sealing” obedient believers with His Spirit, God makes them His own authentic possession. While the Holy Spirit’s sealing never violates God’s word, the word of God is not said to “seal” Christians.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GUARANTEES

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2 Cor. 5:5 cf. 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14)

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The word translated “guarantee [earnest, KJV; pledge, NAS]” (from *arrabon*, ἀρραβών) refers to a pledge; guarantee of what is to come; a deposit of money, installment. The word was used as a legal and commercial technical term for first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge, that pays a part of the purchase price in advance, and so secures a legal claim to the article in question, or makes a contract valid ... a payment which obligates the contracting party to make further payments;” thus, Paul is saying that God “has deposited the first installment of the Spirit in our hearts” (Bauer 109). This blessing, coupled with being sealed, is, as it were, a “written guarantee” from God, who cannot lie, that the faithful Christian belongs to Him and will receive all the blessings in Christ, both temporal and eternal. Again, this guarantee would never contradict God’s word, but the word of God is not said to be the Christian’s down payment guarantee!

While the Holy Spirit and God’s word are inseparable, and their work overlaps, they are not the same. We know the Holy Spirit’s work and every other spiritual truth the same way, “The Bible tells me so.” 

WORKS CITED

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd rev. ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
Schippers, Reinier. “Seal [σφραγίς],” *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Vol. 3. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.

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The Promise of Redemption

Monday

- 9:00 The Concept of Redemption Will Hanstein
 9:40 The Curse of Sin Terrance Brownlow-Dindy
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Redemptive Events: The Flood Sam Willcut

Forum: Rooted in Redemption

- 1:30 Implications of Being "Bought with Price" Thomas Wise
 2:00 "Redeeming the Time" Forest Stone Antemasaris
 2:30 Protecting Self from Believing in Vain Hiram Kemp
 3:30 **Ladies Class:** Eve and Redemption Shenia Brownlow-Dindy
 3:30 Questions and Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Great Redemption Texts: Psalm 22 David Myers
 7:45 Christ: Manifestation of Redemption Jeff A. Jenkins

Tuesday

- 9:00 Why Is Blood Required? Stephen Atnip
 9:40 OT Sacrifices and Redemption Brooks Boyd
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Redemptive Events: The Exodus Jeff A. Jenkins

Forum: Deity's Role in Redemption

- 1:30 The Father's Role John Allan
 2:00 The Son's Role Scott Pfettscher
 2:30 The Holy Spirit's Role David Stearsman
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Great Redemption Texts: Isaiah 53 Rico Brown
 7:45 The "Redemption of the Body" Jimmy Clark

Wednesday

- 9:00 Types of Redemption in Genesis Timothy Kidwell
 9:40 Substitutionary Atonement Chad Tagtow
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Redemptive Events: Israel's Captivity & Return J. Clark

Forum: Metaphors of Redemption

- 1:30 Justification: Acquittal from Sin Daniel Stearsman
 2:00 Forgiveness: Removal of Sin's Debt James Barnes
 2:30 Adoption: Acceptance as Family Chris Kidwell
 3:30 **Ladies Class:** Rahab and Redemption Hannah Giselsbach
 3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Great Redemption Texts: 2 Cor. 5:17-21 Ben L. Radford, Sr.
 7:45 Rejecting Redemption Ty Rhymes

Thursday

- 9:00 Connecting Redemption & Evangelism Wade Webster
 9:40 Connecting Redemption & Edification Allen Webster
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Redemptive Events: Christ's Crucifixion Melvin L. Otey

Forum: TULIP's Twist of Redemption

- 1:30 "Total Hereditary Depravity" Ben Giselsbach
 2:00 "Limited Atonement" C. J. Grimes
 2:30 "Perseverance of the Saints" George F. Beals
 3:30 **Ladies Class:** Mary, Elizabeth, and Redemption H. Giselsbach
 3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Great Redemption Texts: Hebrews 9:13-15 Hiram Kemp
 7:45 Victorious Redemption Melvin L. Otey



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Study the Bible with Us to Improve Your 2020 Insight!

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas (131)	Bauer	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Marriage and the Family (254)	Richardson	3
Tuesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Psalms (268)	Wheeler	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Life of Christ (117)	Wheeler	3
Wednesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Personal Evangelism (120)	Patterson	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Pentateuch (164)	Kemp	3
Thursday	__ 8:30-12:00	Christian Evidences (224)	Beals	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Isaiah and Jeremiah (113)	Brownlow-Dindy	3
Friday	__ 8:30-12:00	Acts (118)	Atnip	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	English II - Composition (125)	Kenyon	3
Extension Classes				
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	First and Second Timothy and Titus (238) (Tenth Street church of Christ, Apopka)	Brownlow-Dindy	2.5
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Isaiah (281) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
Thursday1	__ 7:00-9:30	Gospel of Matthew (289) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Kenyon	2.5