

5. OSAS and Deception

'OSAS' claims that being 'in Christ' is permanent and unconditional, no matter what shameful unrepentant lifestyle a Christian falls into. Satan not only loves this deceptive false teaching, Satan is behind it!

Gen.3:2-4 says; *The woman said to the serpent... God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die'. The serpent replied to the woman, "You surely will not die."*

The same deception is at work in this false teaching. "Eat it (willful, unrepentant sin), it's ok, and you surely will not die, because you have been 'sealed'"

To the Churches in Galatia, (to 'sealed' Christians)
Gal 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap destruction, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.* (see also James 1:22)

If OSAS was true, this verse would be incorrect, because they teach the complete opposite! They are deceived into believing that a 'sealed' Christian who sows to their own flesh does NOT "reap destruction" but will still "reap eternal life"! (see Gal. 5:24 & Titus 1:16)

6. Jesus Has the Final Say!

Eph. 1:13 says, "you were sealed in Him".
And what does Jesus say about being in Him?

Jesus Himself exposes this false teaching! And Jesus has the final say! So what does "sealed in Him" really mean? Jesus gives us the answer in John 15!

Jesus said, "remain (stay, continue, abide) in Me, and I will remain in you" Jn. 15:4

and then Jesus gives us this clear warning in Jn. 15:6!

if anyone does not remain (stay, continue) in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Jesus tells us what the proof of 'remaining in Him is. *I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.* Jn. 15:5.

If OSAS was true, Jesus got it wrong here and it would be impossible for a branch that was once a part of the vine to be "thrown away" and "burned"!

7. Assurance of Salvation

OSAS cherry picks verses out of context, and as we have seen here, their interpretation of Eph. 1:13 cannot possibly be the correct contextual interpretation.

For different reasons, some Christians want a verse like Eph. 1:13 as a written guarantee of their salvation. The need of assurance is why many so desperately hold on to this verse and this false teaching. They use it as an eternal life insurance policy! But it is a false interpretation, a false teaching and a false assurance!

As we 'remain' in Him, (Jesus) the Holy Spirit himself bears witness with our spirits that we ARE the children of God! He gives us complete assurance! (Rom. 8:16)

The Life is Only in "The Vine"

You have no eternal life in yourself, no righteousness of your own, no true fruit and no real assurance. The branches do not have life in themselves, the life is only in the Vine. It is only by 'remaining' in Jesus 'the Vine', that you have eternal life. And it is only as you 'remain' in Him, that you bear fruit of righteousness and have assurance. As you remain in Him, He remains in you!

Remain in Him, for in Him you are complete!

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy. Jude 1:24

But just 3 verses before, in verse 21, it says,

Keep yourselves in the love of God.

Some Other Bible Studies in our Teaching Series

- What About Repentance?
- Once Saved Always Saved?
- Full Assurance of Salvation
- How do we Interpret the Bible?
- Is the 'Secret' Rapture Biblical?
- What is the Abomination of Desolation?
- Church Structure - Team Ministry



what about being Sealed with the Holy Spirit?

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth the gospel of your salvation, having also believed you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise
Ephesians 1:13

does being Sealed with the Holy Spirit mean
Once Saved Always Saved?

What About Being Sealed?

Ephesians 1:13-14 *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed (trusted), you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Eph.1:13 is the main 'go to verse', for those who teach 'Once Saved Always Saved' (OSAS). They claim that once a person is 'sealed' at conversion, that person can never forfeit and lose their salvation, even if they fall away and live a life of shameful sin and never repent. But is their interpretation of this scripture correct?

How can this interpretation be correct when it is in direct conflict with so many other scriptures? For example, if their translation of this verse was correct, it would completely nullify Hebrews 6:4-6 which clearly teaches the exact opposite of their interpretation! Our previous study has already confirmed that it is a false teaching. But in this study we will look at Eph. 1:13 **in context**, to see the **correct** interpretation.

1. This verse is written to Faithful Christians

Verse 13 was written to "saints who are faithful" (Eph. 1:1) and verse 13 itself tells us that they were sealed because they were believers! (they were trusting Christ)

This is very important to understand! It was not written to unfaithful 'saints'! They were sealed **because** they were faithful saints, faithful believers. They were not sinless but they were faithful! Being faithful does not mean we don't sin any more, it means we don't live in sin anymore! Being faithful means we don't turn away from Christ, to wilfully embrace sin and deny Jesus with our lifestyle. The seal is the seal of the covenant and the covenant is conditional upon being **faithful!**

In Matt. 25, Jesus, referring to His second coming, says to the faithful servant (vs.23) **'Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master'** But to the unfaithful servant (vs.26) **"You wicked and lazy servant"** (and vs.30) **"Throw out the worthless servant into the outer darkness; in that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"**

Jesus said, in Matt. 24:12, *Because of the increase of wickedness, most people's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved!* Faithfulness!

2. The Seal is God's Guarantee that He Will Keep His Part in Our Covenant with Him

Being sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13) is a clear indication from God that we are His purchased possession, and it is a pledge (vs14), a guarantee of our present and future inheritance "in Him" (Jesus). This is a definitive indication and a guarantee of **God's faithfulness**. But God's faithfulness is not a license for us to be unfaithful as this false teaching claims.

In a marriage, rings are exchanged as a seal, a clear indication, a sign of absolute commitment. And a pledge of faithfulness for a united future is made publicly. But this seal, the clear indication, and the pledge with it, can be broken by either one of the two parties being unfaithful!

3. The Seal CAN Be Broken By Us!

There is **not one** indication in all of scripture that this 'seal' cannot be broken, only the opposite! Eph.1:13 was written to **faithful** Saints. So the question is, **can** a seal and a pledge be broken? Well, God is certainly faithful! But can **we** break the covenant? Can **we** break **our** pledge? Or more specifically, after receiving the Holy Spirit, who is the seal, who is the pledge, can **we** grieve Him & reject Him? The answer is obvious! And the following verses confirms this with absolute certainty!

Hebrew 10:23,26,29

To Saints who had been 'sealed' with the Holy Spirit

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; For if we ('Saints') go on deliberately (wilfully) sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. How much severer punishment do you think someone deserves who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

God has made it clear, not only here, but in so many other scriptures as well. Our covenant **is conditional!** If we backslide in heart (Prov.14:14) and are unfaithful in lifestyle, the covenant is broken by us!

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1Jn.1:7

4. We are Sealed With A Warning!

Ephesians 4:30, *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Notice that we were sealed '**for**' the future day & it doesn't say '**until**'! But even more significant is the warning! And we have the same warning in Isaiah 63.

Isaiah 63:9-10 says, *In His love and compassion He redeemed them [Israel]; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, and He fought against them.*

Israel were God's own people. But Paul tells us in; **Rom. 11:20-22**, *they [the Jews] were broken off for their unbelief, but you [saints who were sealed] stand by your faith. [be faithful!] Do not be conceited, but fear; 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either. 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise YOU also will be cut off.*

If OSAS was true, then Paul got it wrong here, because it would be impossible for these 'sealed' Roman Christians to "be cut off"

Galatians 3:2, *This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*

To Galatian Christians Who Had Been 'Sealed'

1. Christ has become of no benefit to you Gal. 5:2
2. You are **severed from Christ** Gal. 5:4
3. You have fallen from grace Gal. 5:4

If OSAS was true, then Paul got it wrong here again, because it would be impossible for these 'sealed' Galatian Christians to be "severed from Christ"

Paul Warns 'Sealed' Believers in 1 Cor. 15:1-2; *Now I make known to you brothers, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold fast the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

If OSAS was true and the 'seal' was unconditional and unbreakable, then Paul got it wrong here also!

And it would be impossible for them to have "believed in vain" because they would still be saved.