

people. And, be it observed, it is only *in* Him that they are so sealed, because it is only when Divine love has brought us out of the place of wrath and put us in the place of abiding reconciliation, even in Christ, that the Holy Spirit can come down into our hearts as the heavenly seal of the Eternal Father. Therefore we read as follows: "In whom, also after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance" (Eph. i. 13). Now, the verb "to seal" has in Scripture three significations: 1st, to ratify or confirm; 2nd, to close up from sight, to keep in reservation; 3rd, to complete. God ratifies and confirms the everlasting salvation of those who have laid hold on His covenant of peace by sending to them the seal of His Spirit. As a man ratifies and confirms a document by affixing his seal, so when a sinner, on the credibility of God's word, has accepted Christ as the eternal ransom of his soul, God ratifies His word by sealing that man with the Holy Ghost, and the Spirit henceforth dwells in him as the SEAL of the living God.

To seal also means "to close up from sight," to keep privately in reservation. Now God's people are His secret ones. We are told "the