

DOCTRINE OF POSITIONAL TRUTH

May 3, 1985

I. Definition and description.

- A. Positional truth is a name for the spiritual union with Christ, which occurs at salvation in the Church Age.
- B. In the Greek it is represented by the preposition plus the locative of sphere, for example:
 - 1. Jn.15:2 "Every branch in Me".
 - 2. Rom.6:11 "in Christ Jesus".
 - 3. Rom.16:8 "in the Lord".
 - 4. Gal.1:22 "in Christ".
 - 5. Eph.1:7 "In Him".
 - 6. 1Thess.1:1 "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ".
- C. Positional truth is a current blessing of believers, Rom.16:3,7-13,22; 1Cor.3:1; 2Cor.12:2.
- D. Positional truth is the work of God, 1Cor.1:30.
- E. Nothing can separate us from position in Christ, Rom.8:35-39.
- F. All believers in this Age share positional truth, Gal.3:28; Eph.2:13.
- G. It is related to the mystery doctrines of the Church Age, Eph.1:9; 3:17.
- H. Sometimes it is called current positional truth, based on Eph.2:6, or positional sanctification, based on 1Cor.1:2,30.
- I. Positional truth constitutes the believer a part of a new humanity, 2Cor.5:17 "*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*". Gal.6:15 "*For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.*"
- J. Jesus first taught the new relationship which believers have in this age, Jn.14:20 "*In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*"
- K. Illustrations of positional truth in the New Testament.
 - 1. Vine and branches, Jn.15:1-16.
 - 2. Body, Rom.12:5; 1Cor.12:27.
 - 3. Bride of Christ, Eph.5.
 - 4. Building, 1Pet.2:4-7.
- L. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the mechanics of positional truth, which therefore begins for the believer at salvation, Gal.3:26-28; 1Cor.12:13.
- M. Positional truth constitutes a new beginning, neutralizing the long term effects of position in Adam, 1Cor.15:22 "*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.*"
 - 1. Position in Adam is the result of the imputation of Adam's original sin to the indwelling sinful trend of Adam (STA) at physical birth, resulting in spiritual death, Rom.6.
 - 2. Position in Christ replaces spiritual death with eternal life and guarantees the body a future resurrection, Rom.6:23; 1Thess.4:13-16.
- N. The administration of the blessings (Phase 1, 2 and 3 see point II) associated with union with Christ is taught in Scripture, 1Cor.2:12; Eph.1:18.
- O. Positional truth does not guarantee the believer experiential (Phase 2) victory over the flesh, Satan, or the cosmos, 2Thess.3:12; 1Cor.3:1; 4:10.
- P. It does guarantee that we share in Christ's victory at the Cross, (Rom.6:3), called retroactive positional truth; what He is currently at God's right hand, Eph.2:46; and all that He will be.

II. Blessings associated with positional truth, Eph.1:3; 1Cor.1:4.

- A. Eternal life, Rom.6:23, and no condemnation, Rom.8:1,2.
- B. Imputation of righteousness (+R), 2Cor.5:21; Gal.3:14; Phil.3:9.
- C. Redemption, 1Cor.1:30.
- D. Forgiveness, Eph.4:32; 1Tim.1:14.
- E. Sealing and guarantee of a resurrection, Eph.1:13,14.

- F. Sonship, Gal.3:26.
 - G. Peace, Jn.16:33.
 - H. God's love, Eph.1:6.
 - I. Bible Doctrine, Rom.9:1; 1Cor.1:30; Eph.4:21; 1Tim.3:13.
 - J. Liberty, Gal.2:4.
 - K. Access to God, Eph.3:12.
 - L. Spiritual gifts, Eph.4:7; 1Cor.1:4,5.
 - M. Living grace, Phil.4:19.
 - N. Encouragement, Phil.2:1.
 - O. Surpassing grace blessings in Phase 3, Eph.2:7; Phil.3:14.
 - P. Teachers of Bible Doctrine, 1Cor.4:15,17; 2Cor.12:19.
 - Q. Spiritual enlightenment, 2Cor.3:14.
 - R. Confidence, Eph.3:12.
 - S. Promises, 2Cor.1:19,20.
 - T. Phase 3 hope, 1Cor.15:19,22; 2Tim.2:10.
 - U. Common human problems, though not a blessing, are associated with positional truth, 2Cor.13:4; Phil.1:13; 2Tim.3:12.
- III. Phase 2 is the believer's opportunity to exploit positional truth by divine good production, Eph.2:10
"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them", as seen in:
- A. The analogy of the vine and the branches in Jn.15. This teaches that *"much fruit"* demands more than just being a branch.
 1. The two kinds of branches represent two kinds of believers in Christ.
 2. The productive branches are those who *"abide in Christ"* (a reference to the filling of the Holy Spirit, not positional truth) and who possess the indwelling of Christ, defined as Bible Doctrine within, Jn.15:4,5,7.
 3. The nonproductive branch is a believer whom God disciplines and denies reward, Jn.15:2,6.
 - B. The goal of doctrinal teaching as stated in Col.1:28.
 - C. The exhortation of Col.2:6,7; cp. 1:3,4.

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