

OUR POSITION IN THE LORD

Some thoughts concerning our position in the Lord.

I cannot know light without an understanding of darkness. I cannot know true darkness until exposed to light.

Well, to carry this on further, something we have come to know about ourselves, there is no third program. One is either in Adam – or he/she is in Christ. There is no third place to be.

I once was lost, but now I am found. There once was a time that my spirit was dead in trespasses and sins, and now it is alive unto God. There was never a time when I was in between. It was either one or another, but never in between.

We would do well to understand that a person is either “In Christ” or he is lost to the God of this age. There is no 3rd program.

Well acknowledging this, it makes certain scriptures really plain to understand.

For example – 1st John 4:4 says of the believer “You are of God little children and have overcome THEM. (Again, only two types of folks: Those “of God” and “them”. There are those who belong to God, and those who do not. - Do we understand?

Well, if the Holy Spirit lives within the lives of those who are “in Christ” – it stands to reason that within the lives of those not in Christ, there lives another god called Satan.

These are the folks John is talking about when he compares the believer to THEM. There is a spirit within the lives of the redeemed, and there is a spirit within the lives of the unredeemed.

John continues in this verse with “He who is within you (The Holy Spirit of the Living God) is greater than he (the false spirit of Satan) who is in the world.”

Further John then states that these other folks (without the Spirit of God) are of the world, and correspondingly “they speak the same language as the world speaks” and oh by the way “the world hears them.”

He then goes on to say in verse 6 that – “we are of God” and the fact that those who are of God hear us when we speak. “*He who is not of God, does not hear us*”.

The fact that those “of God” hear us and that is known as the spirit of truth. Those who do not hear us are of the spirit of error.

Talking of spiritual things to a person who is not redeemed, is asking a dog to fly, or as Jesus said “casting your pearls before a swine.” Beloved, do not waste your time... He has but one thing to hear – Jesus Christi is the Son of God, the only way to heaven and

has become sin on your behalf and if you believe this, your spirit can and will become “born again”.

Our problems arise when we think of ourselves (before Christ) as unredeemed people.

Good people, just not yet totally informed.

We have no concept of what we were before Christ. Before He came and redeemed our spirit with His Spirit, we do not see ourselves as being controlled by the “prince of the power of the air” but that was the case.

That is what Paul said in Ephesians 2:2 – “you and I walked in the power of the “prince of the power of the air”. This is the same spirit now working in so much of our leadership in our country. They are being directed by the spirit (Satan) who now works in the sons of disobedience.

Satan described himself in our lives and others who have yet to become redeemed, as unbelievers. Beloved, we tend to believe that if the truth be known, we were unbelieving believers until someone came along and told us what to believe. We heard the message and said “well I believe that”.

Again, I must reiterate, we are and always have been nothing more than vessels. Once we were vessels of dishonor, now we are vessels of honor. As vessels, we contain. We do not improve, we contain. Contain what you ask? Once the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience. This spirit was energized by Satan himself. Along came the Holy Spirit, we believed His message, and now we contain the Spirit of Truth.

Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 2: 1&following – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were *by nature children of wrath*, just as the others.

Again beloved – there are but 2 natures. By nature, children of wrath or partakers of His divine nature. Not such thing as “human nature” No middle ground – one or the other.

So what happened to us? There was a change of gods in our lives. From the god of this age, to the One True God of heaven.

Jesus said in John 15:1 “I am the true vine”. Well, what does that presuppose? There must be a false vine – correct?

Paul puts it this way – there are those out there that are “vessels of wrath” that are prepared for destruction (Romans 9:22) and vessels prepared for mercy – Romans

9:23). Notice that there is no middle ground – no 3rd program. Either an individual is one prepared for destruction, or the one prepared for mercy.

Well, why is it necessary to know this?

My desire in writing this is to make us aware that something very drastic has happened to each one of us. There has been a change in ownership within our lives. There has been a change in direction in our lives. The vessel now contains a new owner and this new owner is not there to help us overcome what we were, but to take charge of what we now are. Not to improve our behavior, but to establish His kingdom in, to and through our lives.

We do not fully understand what it presently means to be “justified”. It does not mean that we are just forgiven. To be forgiven might leave a remnant of what we were before we became His. It does not just mean that some of the things we used to do, we no longer have to do them, it means that there is a new “sheriff” in town and the old one is no longer around. There is a whole new creation that has come about.

Once there was but darkness (even though we knew this not) and now the entire body is filled with light.

We didn’t just add glasses to eyes that had a problem with sight. We didn’t receive hearing aids to ears that were having a problem with hearing. We actually got new ears, new eyes. Ones now that can actually see and hear.

The end result of our “knowing this” about ourselves is not to just see ourselves as no longer attached to the consequences of a sinful life, but rather to begin to see ourselves as to who we really are.

As righteous and as sinless and as spotless as our Savior Himself. That is our new identity. That is who we really are right now. Not something to attain to, but to acknowledge as who we are right now.

His resurrection from the dead was our resurrection from the old man. Our removal from all of his activities into a “new life”. Not something to be attained, but rather something to be acknowledged.

We cannot improve on perfection. And as He is perfect in every way, so are we. The sooner we acknowledge this fact about ourselves, the proper activity will follow. Knowing who you are, corrects any activity of the “god of this age” that would try and impose his will on this new creation. Old things have passed away, behold all things have already become new.

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