

Our Resources in Christ
(Ephesians 1:15-23)

I. Position vs Practice

- A. Position and practice is basic to Christianity.
 - 1. You must understand who you are in Christ .
 - 2. That and that alone is the foundation upon which you operate.
 - 3. You've got to understand the foundational principles...
 - a. This is who I am...
 - b. This is my position...
 - c. This is my understanding of it
 - 4. People who don't distinguish between those two things get confused.
- B. The fact is Christian growth has nothing to do with your position in Christ.
 - 1. When you were saved your sin was forgiven.
 - 2. The Christian life is the process of becoming what you are.
 - 3. There are a lot of people who think that Christian growth makes God like you better.
 - 4. What you do or don't do has absolutely n effect on your position before God.
- C. Positionally you are already accepted in the beloved. (Eph 1:6,.)
 - 1. Nothing you do can increase you in God's favor...nothing you do can decrease you in God's favor.
 - 2. Hebrews 10 says He has perfected you forever by the one offering of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Positionally perfect...
 - b. Positionally complete.
 - c. He loves you so much already it's impossible to love you more.

II. Prayer for the People

- A. Paul says I've been hearing good things, in fact I hear two things I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the saints.
- B. Not only is your salvation evident by the faith in the Lord Jesus but your love unto all the saints.
- C. People spend a lot of time messing around, chasing stuff we've got.
 - 1. We say, "Lord, I need strength," and the Bible says "You can do all things through Christ who already strengthens you."
 - 2. "Lord, 'I need love.'..."The love of Christ is shed abroad in your heart."
 - 3. "Lord, 'I need grace,' "My grace is sufficient for you."
 - 4. "Lord, I need peace in this situation"... "I already left you all My peace that passes understanding."
- D. Paul prays..."The human mind cannot conceive of the riches of our position in Christ so...please God...grant them this understanding.
 - 1. I believe Paul is saying is..."Give them the fullness of an attitude of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
 - 2. "Oh God, let them know in their mind how much they possess in Christ."
- E. The Holy Spirit and the human spirit are both implied.
 - 1. Paul is praying is this..."God, send the Holy Spirit to work on the human spirit to create the right spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, because it's the work of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:1)
 - 2. He's saying, "God I'm just praying that the Holy Spirit will work on the human spirit to produce the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that that they will know their position and their resource and that they will use it."
- F. I've said this for years and years and I'll say it till I drop over...the Christian life is predicated on what you know,

III. Conclusion

- A. Do you know you have Christ?
- B. If you know Christ do you really have this, this attitude of wisdom and revelation, this deep sense of knowing God's heart and God's mind?
- C. You should...and Paul prayed that you would.