

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#30: FORGIVEN ALL TRESPASSES

This positional truth really highlights the distinction between a believer's permanent non-experiential *position* or standing in the heavenlies in Christ (Eph. 2:5-6) and his experiential *temporal status* on this earth (carnal or spiritual; baby or mature). God's marvelous work of grace in the 50 positional truths refers to a believer's standing with God and has absolutely nothing to do with his status on earth. Every believer is as positionally forgiven as he is positionally justified, reconciled, and made perfect—these are permanent standings that are distinction from any experiential status. Without any fear of contradiction, the Scriptures declare that believers are forgiven of all sins because of redemption with respect to their positional standing before God (Col, 1:14), while at the same time telling *believers* they need to confess their sins for forgiveness with respect to their experiential status (1 John 1:9).

This positional truth also shows just how important it is for the believer to develop his thinking to that third level of maturity to grasp these wonderful truths. The first level of thinking—both spiritually as well as temporally—is when a person only has basic comprehension. Like a child, they primarily have isolated strands of knowledge; there is little to no synthesis of knowledge like cause and effect and relationships between the bits of knowledge. In the case of this believer, he only has isolated verses of Scripture. In this first level, the believer is unable to defend the truth that he does possess because it is not really related to all of the other truths. In level one, cognition is mostly limited to adding predicates to certain concepts with little to no thought about them. This is just basic Bible memorization. Bible *memorization apart from proper understanding and integration* does not provide mental or spiritual development. As a matter of fact, it can make things worse by giving the believer a false sense of security or spirituality because he is quoting God's word—albeit without understanding or proper application. Even the Pharisees and the Devil quoted Scripture. We must understand these truths, and this is only possible in the next two levels.

If the believer lives under the filling of the Holy Spirit and thinks about these truths often then he will move to level two. In level two the believer builds his systematics; he starts becoming a systematic theologian with respect to the Word of God. Because he has spent time thinking about the Word of God, he sees their relationships with each other and therefore enters into a much deeper understanding of the Word of God. He has moved to the point where he can defend the truth. In level *one* he knows 1 John 1:9 (experiential forgiveness) and Colossians 1:14 (positional forgiveness), but he remains confused about the two forgivenesses—and unfortunately can be tripped up by the heresy which teaches that a believer does not need to confess his sins. All of the lame attempts to explain away 1 John 1:9 (e.g., that it is a salvation passage) by pastors only gives evidence to the fact that they have not really moved into level two—of being systematic theologians. They are still fragmented in their understanding of God's Truth.

If the believer continues to live under the enlightening ministry of the Holy Spirit, he will move into level three of understanding Bible doctrine. At level three he moves into the most profound understanding of Scripture. By reflection on systematized truth, he enters a profound understanding of God and the Bible as a whole. He is able to think very deeply about these concepts as they are all related to each other. Such a believer has the capacity to love God with the most profound love. This believer has become a metaphysician who goes beyond the surface truths of Scripture (e.g., anthropopathisms, anthropomorphisms). He understands the nature of God on the deepest level. He is not tripped up by such passages which teach that God is in all things, yet He cannot be part of sin, and yet He is in the believer in the church age in a special way, or that God is not part of evil, yet God is behind the present existence of all things, or how can God be in Hell/Hades and still not have contact with sin. Understanding how all of these truths work together with the various modalities involved requires high abstract thinking. High abstract thinking on this level does not come automatically. *The intellect must be pressed.* Yes, we absolutely do need the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but again, the intellect has to be pressed and challenged in these areas if the believer ever hopes to move into these profound truths, that instead of perplexing him, serve as vehicles to love God even more. Of late, we have been in the deep end of the pool in the metaphysics of the Esse of God; if you stick with it, you will gain capacities of high order thinking that will not only enable you to grasp these recondite truths, but see God, the spiritual life, your temporal life, and the Bible in a whole new light—a whole new level. Wow!

Positional truth #30: Forgiveness all Trespasses

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

In Christ,

Pastor Don