

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#35: “Believers are Gifts from God the Father to Jesus Christ”

In John 17:6 Christ reveals the fact that God the Father actually gives believers as gifts to Jesus Christ:

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name **to the men whom You gave Me** out of the world; **they were Yours** and **You gave them to Me**, and they have kept Your word.

Note two things in this verse: 1) believers are given, or entrusted (the meaning of the Greek verb) by the Father to the Son; and 2) the Son tells the Father that they were His in the beginning. All believers are positionally related to God the Father, and God the Father gives them to Jesus Christ as gifts, so in essence the believer is positionally related to God the Father and the Son in this transaction.

When a person believes in Jesus Christ he goes from Satan being his father as an unbeliever (John 8:44; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 5:19) to a new position as God the Father as his Father as a new believer (1 Pet. 1:3). Then, God the Father gives the believer to Jesus Christ, the second member of the trinity.

Although this takes place in time, the provisions were provided in eternity past. There is a sense in which all believers always belonged to the Father in a time when there was no time. All believers can take comfort in the thought, that they were known and cared for and given to Christ by an eternal agreement, long before they came to know Christ or cared for Him. It is fantastic thing to *realize* that Christ cares for that which the Father has given Him. This is a wonderful fact which our finite minds cannot fully comprehend (e.g., a time when there was no time??).

What a comfort to know that all believers have been predestined and chosen; their very number and names were known before the foundation of the world.

Excursus: Since we are dealing with the relationship between the Father and the Son, I would like to touch on an area that is often attacked by non-Christians, e.g. Jehovah Witnesses. The subject deals with the statement in John 14:28 that God the Father is greater than Jesus Christ. How can the Father be greater if Jesus is very God and equal with God the Father (as taught in orthodox Christianity)? Metaphysical and philosophical concepts help provide us with some important distinctions.

The Father is greater than the Son by office, but not by nature, since both are God (John 1:1; 8:58; 10:30). Just as an earthly father is equally human with, but holds a higher office than, his son, even so the Father and the Son in the Trinity are equal in *Esse*, but different in *function*. In like manner, we speak of the president of our country as being a greater man, not by virtue of his *character*, but by virtue of his *position*. Therefore, Jesus cannot ever be said to say that He considered Himself anything less than God by nature. Note the following chart.

**JESUS IS EQUAL
TO THE FATHER**

- In essence
- In nature
- In character

**THE FATHER IS GREATER
THAN JESUS**

- In function
- In office
- In position

A being that is because of Is,

Pastor Don