

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS—#4: Called

It is very important for every believer to understand the difference between his *standing* and his *state*. A believer's standing before God is his eternal position in God whereas his state deals with his temporal life with God which is always in flux. The Christian's position (standing, positional truth) is one of perfection—it cannot change: it cannot be diminished or improved. The believer's standing is permanent and perfect. He possesses a permanent relationship with God regardless of where he is experientially (supergrace or reversionism).

Positional truth 1) is not an experience, 2) is not progressive—cannot be improved in time, 3) is not related to human merit or ability, 4) cannot be changed by God, man, or angels—it is eternal in nature; 5) is not obtained gradually as you grow in grace; 6) is not known or oriented to apart from teaching positional truth; 7) is the basis of progress in the spiritual life—but we cannot improve it since it is perfect at salvation; 8) is not based on what we do (e.g., morality or spirituality), or fail to do (sin and evil), but because of what God has done.

Positional truth:

#4 Called. The grace of God is magnified not only in the provision of salvation, but also in the offer of salvation to the undeserving. While God calls all to salvation, the believer's call is made effectual through temporal and spiritual resources like seeing to it that the believer hears the gospel and by providing the enablement to understand it through the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-11). God does not call men to reformation of life, to good works, to baptism, to church involvement, etc. These are all proper things in themselves, but they are merely the fruit of that to which he calls all men. He calls on all to believe in His Son for salvation. God calls men through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, his servants, and providential circumstances. When a person accepts Christ he takes on the title "called one" to emphasize God's initiative. This new title is permanent and brings with it the assurance that God will see that person through to the very end. There is nothing a believer can do to remove his standing as a called one. This calling not only refers to the call of salvation, but to the call of ministry as well.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, **called** as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Romans 1:6 among whom you also are the **called** of Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **called** according to *His* purpose.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is He who **calls** you, and He also will bring it to pass.