

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#43: Heavenly Citizens

It is important for every Christian to understand the difference between *standing* and *state*. Standing deals with the believer's position with God by virtue of the new birth which he experiences (John 1:12). Standing refers to positional truths. The position is one of perfection because of such things as justification where the righteousness of Christ has been imputed to the believer, and so the believer *positionally* is as judicially righteous as Christ is in the Father's sight. The believer never loses his position in Christ (Rom. 8:1, 38-39).

A believer's *state*, however, is quite a different matter. State deals with the believer's condition *in this world*. It refers to the believer's walk with the Lord. At best, it is imperfect, it will vary from day to day and through the various seasons of one's life. There will be times when a believer may be very interested in God as reflected in his attitude to God's Word and fellow believers, there will be times when the believer may be living in gross evil by living independent of God and living for kosmos diabolicus. *State* has to do with practical sanctification unto God and away from evil. Understanding the insidious nature of evil is one of the most important things for a believer. Evil is not sin. Sin is easy to spot, but evil is a whole philosophy of life. In evil a believer can even quote passages in attempts to get more of God's blessings, e.g., "name it and claim it." Evil is much more difficult to root out of one's *thinking*. Evil saturates TV, radio, politics, and Hollywood, et al. Evil is found in sophistication and culture as well as in anti-intellectualism, ignorance, and gang-banging. It is even found in Bible churches (especially among Charismatics) and even among some doctrinal believers. It is one thing to sin and confess it. It is quite another to have a philosophy of evil which says, "I will go ahead and sin, and just confess it later." That is independence of God, that is evil, that is a bigger problem. Thank God we have 1 John 1:9 with all of the guaranteed forgiveness that it provides. But let us not kid ourselves—no, let us not let Evil screw up our thinking about the spiritual life and God. Satan loves it when God's children are clueless about His philosophy of evil—especially when they are pious about their "religious" systems. He loves Christian anti-intellectualism!

Regardless of what state a believer is in, positionally he is a heavenly citizen. Let us remember that this earth is not our home; we are just passing through. To live for this earth is to live in evil. God in His eternal plan decided to put us in this narrow strip of history for a purpose, and that purpose is not to gain more earth/dirt. It is to grow spiritually and fulfill His individual plan for our lives. While it is true that what we do here echoes throughout eternity, the fact remains that no matter how much or how long we have lived in evil on this earth, eventually we will be with Him—this is the blessing of positional truth. Knowing this motivates us not for evil but for the Good, God—the Only True Good of our lives. Not to recognize God as the Ultimate of our lives is evil. Let's turn from all of the bane vain things of life and turn to Him and—He is our only true and ultimate source of Happiness and Blessedness.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don