

Position and Condition

August 13, 2012 Devotional from *Day of Praise**

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

Christians have a glorious position before God. As the above verse indicates, God has, in effect, already “raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). Yet our actual spiritual condition here on Earth often seems to belie our exalted position in heaven, so we repeatedly need to be exhorted not only to believe the truth, but also to live the truth.

Theoretically, we are dead to the world, and our “life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3), yet we must continually be exhorted to “Mortify, (*put to death*) therefore your members which are upon the earth” (Colossians 3:5a, *insert added*). We “have put on the new man,” but nevertheless must repeatedly be “renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Colossians 3:10).

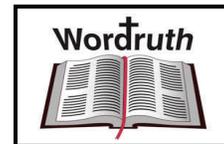
While in doctrine we are “complete in him,” in practice we must “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10), yet each believer is commanded to “follow after righteousness” (1 Timothy 6:11) and to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

We are “all the children of light” (1 Thessalonians 5:5), and we are to “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). Paul prays that “Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Ephesians 3:17), yet already we have “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

These truths are not contradictions, of course, but exhortations. “If” (and the Greek word actually means “since”) we are “risen with Christ” (Colossians 3:1) then by all means we ought to live as those that are alive unto God!

See also [What Do You Believe? ... No, Really](#)

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Now and Then

August 17, 2012 Devotional from *Day of Praise**

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

There is a great contrast between now and then. We see only dimly now, but at least we see! We only know partially, but we do know! What we shall see and know in the future is already ours, but only in hope and promise. “For what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” (Romans 8:24).

The Christian life knows many such paradoxes. We now “are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14) and yet we are “waiting for the adoption” (Romans 8:23). Us “he also glorified” (Romans 8:30), but still “we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

Right now in Christ, “we have redemption through his blood” (Ephesians 1:7) but the Holy Spirit is “the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession” (Ephesians 1:14).

We only have “the first fruits of the Spirit” while we are awaiting “the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23), but by “the Holy Spirit of God” we “are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30), and therefore we already possess “redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14).

Similarly, the Father already “hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13), but “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

Salvation has past, present, and future dimensions in all its aspects. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” (John 3:36), as a present possession on the basis of a transaction already accomplished; yet still we must be encouraged to “lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called” (1 Timothy 6:12). We know our Savior by faith, but the day will come when we truly know Him, as He knows us!

See also [The Cost of Forgiveness – We Can Only Imagine](#)

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