

POSITIONAL TRUTH

Request: Recently you made reference to the Doctrine of Positional Truth. Would you please do a basic study on this Doctrine?

Positional truth is a doctrinal term that describes the transfer of the unbeliever's position in fallen Adam (AOS) to the believer's position in the resurrected Jesus Christ (grace salvation).

“For as **in Adam** (en+locative of positional truth) all die (spiritual death) so also **in Christ** (en+locative of positional truth) all shall be made alive (eternal life).” (1 Cor.15:22)

The Greek prepositional phrase, *in Christ*, is used 164 times by Paul in the NT to teach positional truth in CWL

“Therefore, *if any man is in Christ*, he is a new creature; the old things passed away (**13** judicial charges of AOS); behold, the new things have come.” (the other **37** aspects of grace salvation = 8 works of The Holy Spirit, 9 factors of communion and 20 status privileges). (2 Cor.5:17)

This lesson will study Six aspects of the doctrine of POSITIONAL TRUTH.
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1. Personal faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ transfers a person from a position in Adam (AOS) to a position in the resurrected Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4, 22; Rom.1:16; 2 Cor.5:17).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears (akouo/ p.a.ptc) My word, and believes (pisteuo/ p.a.ptc) Him who sent (pempo/ a.a.ptc) Me, has (echo/ p.a.ind) eternal life, and does not come (erchomai/ p.m.ind) into judgment, but *has passed out (metabaino/ perf.a.ind)* of death (thanatos) into life (zoe).” (John 5:24)

“Even when we were dead in our transgression, *made us alive together with Christ* (by grace you have been saved) and *raised us up with Him*, and *seated us with Him* in heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**.” (Eph.2:5-6/ positional truth)

2. The mechanics for placement IN Christ (positional truth) is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. [Positional truth is illustrated as the top circle from the cross.] (Eph.1:3; 2:6; 4:5)

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Cor.12:13)

This is 1 of the 8 works of the Holy Spirit at salvation (Matt.3:11; Acts 2:32-33; Gal.3:2, 27-28).

3. Positional truth provides at least 50 things that every church age believer receives at the point of grace salvation - that he can never lose in time nor eternity (Rom.5:8-12, 21; 2 Cor.5:17-21).

- 13** Judicial charges of Adam's Original Sin are removed.
- 9** Factors of communion are established.
- 8** Works of the Holy Spirit are completed.
- 20** Status privileges of the royal family are guaranteed.

4. Positional truth guarantees eternal security of every church age believer in time and eternity.

Rom.8:1 declares that there is no judgment in time or eternity greater than union with Jesus Christ (positional truth).

(Rom.8:35-39 – “nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”)

“And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.*” (1 John 5:11-13)

5. Positional truth belongs to the carnal as well as the spiritual believer.

This is part of the doctrine of sanctification. “*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified (hagiazō/ perf.p.ptc/ set aside unto God) in Christ Jesus (positional truth), saints (hagios) by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.*” (1 Cor.1:2)

This means that the believer cannot improve nor cancel or destroy his position in Christ because of God’s grace (Eph.2:1-10; 2 Cor.5:17).

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, that, just as it is written, ‘let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” (1 Cor.1:30)

6. There are three perspectives to positional truth: retroactive positional truth (RAPT); current positional truth (CPT); and experiential positional truth (EPT).

RAPT (Retroactive Positional Truth) identifies the church age believer with the death of Jesus Christ (Rom.6:3-4, 10-11).

- It would include the 13 judicial charges removed and the 9 factors of communion established.
- It would be identified with the cross of Jesus Christ.

CPT (Current Positional Truth) identifies the church age believer with the resurrection-ascension of Jesus Christ (Eph.1: 3; 2:6; Col.2: 12; 3:1; 1 Pet.1: 4-5).

- It would include the 8 works of the Holy Spirit and 20 status privileges of royal family.
- It would be identified with the top circle from the cross.

EPT (Experiential Positional Truth) identifies the church age believer with the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6: 19-20; Rom.8: 9; Gal.3: 2-3).

- While RAPT and CPT deals with victory over the penalty of Adam's Original Sin, EPT deals with victory over the power of the old sin-nature (Gal.5: 16-17).
- It would be identified with the bottom circle from the cross and spirituality. (John 7:38-39; 1 John 1:7-10).