**The Identification Truths: The Front Door - Part III**

**We are ascended and seated with Christ!**

* Having been crucified with Christ, so as to die with Christ, and…
* Having been buried with Him there in the tomb, and…
* Having been raised with Him to new life, we were unfathomably blessed by being ascended and seated with Him.

**Ascended & Seated**

Acts 1 records historically that Christ ascended, right from the presence of the eleven disciples, from there near the top of the Mount of Olives:

Acts 1:1-11 (NASU)

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, " Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

**In the heavenly places in Christ**

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**, 4 just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him **in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:20-21 (See also Philippians 1:27 and 4:1,2 below)

For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 1:27-28

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by your opponents--which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

Philippians 4:1-2

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Colossians 3:1-4

Therefore if **you have been raised up with Christ** [and this is assumed to be true to follow the logic], **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God**. 2 **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth**. 3 For **you have died** [with Him] and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

We have it from the Ephesians passage above (also Ephesians 2:4-7; and elsewhere in Scripture) that Christ was seated in the heavenlies. As with any process or sequence, it’s where it ends that is what counts so greatly. We ascended with Him and are now seated with Him in the heavenlies, not just when we die or are raptured, but spiritually speaking, right now. It is there where we have all of our spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). It is there in the heavenlies where we have our citizenship, which is why our names are written in the book of life – the list of heavenly citizens. It is there where we have our fellowship with Him. We are to do the living there, seated in the heavenlies where we are blessed completely with Him, while He does the living here (Galatians 2:20), since He is not limited by spatial constraints.