**In Christ, Position and Condition**

During the month of March, we will move along in this elective with the following schedule:

Mar No Subject

4 08 In Christ, position and condition

11 09 In Christ, position and possessions

18 10 In Christ, as location and means

25 11 In Christ, redeemed and forgiven, so as to be justified

To the Father’s credit, the believer is blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 1:3 (NASU)

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…

The believer is made to be ‘in Christ’ which is where and in Whom we are blessed with every spiritual blessing. And the only thing we did to have the Father bless us with every spiritual blessing is to believe. God did the rest.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption…

**Position:** Everything that the church age saint is by God’s doing, having been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

From our eternal position in the heavenly places in Christ comes our spiritual possessions, such as:

Ephesians 1:7-8a

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

There are also fixed and predestined outcomes that are part of our spiritual blessings:

Romans 8:28-30 (see also Ephesians 1:5, 11)

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. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Our eternal position, the spiritual possessions that flow from our position, and the things that are predestined and fixed as certain for our future can be summarized as our ‘position’. Some have called this our ‘standing’. These things are all stated as accomplished facts in the New Testament epistles.

**Condition:** While our eternal position, and spiritual possessions and what is predestined by God are fixed and permanently in place, whether we abide in Christ, fellowship with Christ, behold Christ, walk in the Spirit, and are filled with the Spirit can vary from one moment to the next.

Matters of condition are expressed in the New Testament epistles as imperatives, exhortations, and even in the form of commands. Examples would include:

John 15:1-5

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 **Abide [*imperative*] in Me, and I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Romans 12:1-2

**Therefore I urge you, brethren**, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:30-32

**Do not grieve [imperative]** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 **Let all [imperative]** bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander **be put away** from you, along with all malice. 32 **Be kind [imperative]** to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Every matter of condition is based upon our eternal position, spiritual possessions and our predestination. We are never told or urged to do anything that is not founded in our position.