

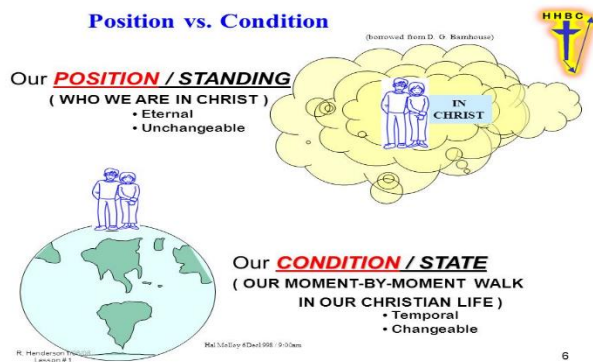
The contrast between our *Position In Christ* and our *Condition On Earth*.

Key Concepts/Words

- Saints = *hagios* – Nine times
- Grace – Twelve times
- Hagios* – Sixteen times (holy, sanctify)
- Peace – Eight times
- Walk – Eight times
- Church – Nine times
- Love – Twenty times

- In Christ – Thirteen times
 - In Him – Eight times
 - In the Beloved
- }
- 22 Times**

Living According to Our True Identity	
POSITION IN CHRIST	CONDITION ON EARTH
Saints - Justified	Saints – Being Sanctified
Seated with Christ in heaven	Walking with Christ on earth
Eternal-Unchangeable	Moment by moment
Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ	Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called



What does this mean?
 When we focus on our position in Christ, our condition on earth will improve!
As a man thinks in his heart, so is he...
Prov. 23:7
Set your minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
Col. 3:2

In the Christian life it is essential that we understand the principle: POSITION *before* CONDITION!

Watchman Nee says:

- Our position in Christ – “Sit” (2:6)*
- Our Life in the World – “Walk” (4:1)*
- Our Attitude to the Enemy – “Stand” (6:11)*

Our CONDITION can never change our POSITION!

No matter how good an *UNBELIEVER* is, it cannot change his POSITION. He cannot earn heaven by his goodness.

No matter how bad an *BELIEVER* might be, (his Condition) it cannot change his POSITION. He cannot lose heaven by his behavior.

As a believer in Jesus - NOTHING IN MY CONDITION CAN EVER AFFECT MY POSITION! My eternal relationship with God is secure because of what God has done for me, not because of what I can do or will do for God!

Place and Date: Ephesians was written by Paul during his Roman imprisonment, c. A.D. 60-62.

Theme and Purpose:

The theme is the church, a mystery in the Old Testament, but now revealed through the apostolic teaching. Paul's goal was to make believers aware of their position in Christ and to encourage them to live in a manner worthy of their lofty calling.

Ephesians 1:1-2 – Introduction – Grace and Peace!

Ephesians 1:4-14 - Our Position:

- Selected By The Father – 1:3-6
- Saved By The Son – 1:7-12
- Sealed By The Spirit – 1:13-14

God has a special purpose for every believer! We are selected, saved, and sealed with that purpose in view.

Selected by the Father – 1:3-6

He chose us in Him...that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

Our choosing (election) is for a PURPOSE!

When? *Before the foundation of the world.*

God does not exist on a time line! He is OMNITEMPORAL

What election is NOT- The doctrine of election is not about God choosing, based simply on His arbitrary choice, who will and who will not be saved (justified) for all eternity. In Calvinism this is called *Unconditional Election*. You are chosen for heaven or hell before you were ever born.

He predestined us to....ADOPTION AS SONS, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF!

Predestined – The Greek word is *proorizo* and means “*to decide beforehand or to predetermine.*”

Proorizo occurs six times in the New Testament. Five of the six are used by Paul

Acts 4:28 – God predetermined certain events that led to the crucifixion of Christ.

Romans 8:29-30 *Predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...*

1 Cor. 2:7 – *God's wisdom predestined before the ages to our glory...*

Eph. 1:5, 11 – *Predestined to adoption/inheritance...*

The sphere of our choosing and predestination...

Blessed with every spiritual blessing...IN CHRIST

He chose us...IN HIM

He predestined us...THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

He bestowed His grace on us... IN THE BELOVED

ALL THESE BLESSINGS ARE BECAUSE WE ARE FOUND IN CHRIST!

The Lazier Man's Guide To Understanding Calvinism

(George Bryson. The Five Points of Calvinism, “Weighed and Found Wanting” CA, The Word for Today. 2006. 121.)

You will be saved or damned

FOR all eternity

Because you were saved or damned

FROM all eternity.

To what then are we predestined?

He predestined us to...

Adoption as sons through Jesus Christ

Jesus is the Son of God! When we place our faith in Him we become a son of God because we are IN HIM!

To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. John 1:12

Adoption – From two Greek words – To be placed as sons!

uios = son
thesis = to place } *uiiothesia*

An adopted son is brought into a family and given the same rights as a child born into that family.

Freely bestowed – Only here and Luke 1:28. The same root as the word “Grace.” With His grace he “graced” us!

In the Beloved – All of our spiritual blessings are found *in Christ!*

Ephesians 1:7-12 - Saved by the Son

Verse 7 – *In Him we have redemption through His blood...*

Redemption – Release and deliverance from a state of slavery. There are three distinct ideas conveyed by the Greek words that describe redemption. 1 – to purchase in the market, 2 – to purchase out of the market, and 3 – to ransom, pay the release price.

Greek Word	English Meaning	References
agorazo (verb) 30 times	To purchase <i>in</i> the market	1 Cor. 6:20, 2 Pet. 2:1,
exagorazo (verb) 4 times	To purchase <i>out of</i> the market	Gal. 3:13, 4:5, Eph:5:16, Col. 4:5
lytron (noun) 2 times	A ransom, price of release	Matt. 20:28, Mark 10:45
lytroomai (verb) 3 times	To free by paying a ransom price	Luke 24:21, Titus 2:14, 1 Pet. 1:18
lytrosis (noun) 3 times	The act of freeing by paying a ransom price	Luke 1:68, 2:38, Heb. 9:12
apolytrosis (noun) 10 times	A buying back, a setting free by paying a ransom price	Luke 21:28, Rom. 3:24, 8:23, 1 Cor. 1:30, Eph. 1:7, 14, 4:30, Col. 1:14, Heb. 9:15, 11:35

“Redemption is an act of God by which He Himself pays as a ransom the price of human sin which the outraged holiness and government of God requires. Redemption undertakes the solution of the problem of sin.”¹ (Lewis Sperry Chafer)

There is an *objective aspect* – the historical death of Christ as a payment for all sin, and a *subjective aspect* – liberation to all who believe in Christ.

“Christ’s ransom price was sufficient for all mankind and provisionally available to all, but the liberation has been effectual only for those who believe.”² (C. Gordon Olson)

“Redeemed how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am!” Fanny J. Crosby

Through His blood – The death of Christ is the only means of redemption.

Our trespasses – “To fall or deviate from the truth”

According to the riches of His grace – The grace of God surpasses anything we could ever imagine.

¹ Chafer, Lewis Sperry, *Systematic Theology, Vol. III*, Dallas Seminary Press, 1948. p. 88.

² Olson, p. 65-66.

Verse 8

Which He lavished upon us – “To furnish one richly so that he has abundance.”

In all wisdom and insight – God is omniscient - all wise. God’s power and knowledge combine with His perfect wisdom to bring about His goals in the ways that are best.

Verse 9

The mystery of His will – A mystery (*mysterion*) means a truth that was previously hidden, but now has been made known by divine revelation.

According to His kind intention which He purposed in Him – It is now God’s good pleasure to reveal to us our future blessings in Christ. The *mysterion* of the church is revealed in chapter 3.

Verse 10

An administration suitable to the fullness of the times – Administration = *oikonomia*, which is translated administration, arrangement, or dispensation. It is used of managing the affairs of a household. It is used here of the millennial reign of Christ (*summing up of all things up in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth*).

Verse 11

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance – The “we” of verses 11-12 refers to Jewish believers. It is contrasted with “you” in verse 13 which refers to Gentile believers.

Inheritance – An appointment or determination which affects men in their being. It is the goal assigned to them in their calling.

Having been predestined according to His purpose – Jewish believers have been appointed by God to also be members of the church.

Who works all things after counsel of His will – God, in His Sovereignty, determined that there would be a remnant of Jews (Romans 11:5) who would be included in the church.

Verse 12

To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ – Jewish believers. The church began on the day of Pentecost and was initially composed of Jews.

Should be to the praise of His glory – God’s ultimate end in calling and saving us through His Son is that we would recognize His glory and serve Him.

Ephesians 1:13-14 – Sealed by the Spirit

Verse 13

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

Pay attention to the order of salvation!

1 – We hear (*listen to*) the gospel

2 – We believe

3 – We are sealed with the Holy Spirit

Romans 10:13-14, 17

Hear – *How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?*

Believe – *How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?*

Sealed – *With the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness.*

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

John 5:24

Hear – *He who hears my word*

Believe – *and believes Him who sent Me*

Sealed – *has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

Acts 15:7-8 – Peter speaking –

Hear – *That by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel*

Believe – *and believe.*

Sealed - *...giving them the Holy Spirit...*

How are we sealed?

1 – We are sealed as to POSITION – Every instance of a seal in Scripture denotes an unalterable position of those who are sealed.

-The 144,000 – Revelation 7:2-8

-Satan – Revelation 20:2-3

-The kings decree – Daniel 6:17

2 – We are sealed as to OWNERSHIP – Everyone who believes in Christ is purchased by His blood and becomes His very own. The seal of the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of this ownership and since it cannot be broken, believers are secure in Him. It is the one who seals who is responsible for the object upon which the seal is placed.

3 – We are sealed as an EARNEST of our inheritance (see also 2 Cor. 1:22). An earnest is a payment made by the purchaser to guarantee the completion of the transaction. To say that a believer could ever lose his or her salvation is to say that God will not honor His earnest payment.

The Holy spirit of promise – The Spirit is often promised in the Old Testament (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, Ezek. 37:14, Joel 2:28-29) and also was promised by Jesus (John 7:39, 14:16, 15:26, 16:13, Acts 1:5).

Verse 14

Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance – The pronouns have shifted from *we* (Jewish believers) to *you* (Gentile believers) to *our*, all believers!

With a view to the redemption of God's own possession – We belong to God! We have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and we now look forward to the day when we will be with Him. Note 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Peter 2:9.

To the praise of His glory – This first section begins with praise, ends with praise, and is filled with praise for God!

-Verse 6 – *To the praise of the glory of His grace*

-Verse 12 – *To the praise of His glory*

-Verse 14 – *To the praise of His glory*

The work of the *Father, Son, and Spirit* results in the praise of His glory!

The more we understand how much God loves us and has chosen us to be like His Son, the more we understand what Christ did for us in redeeming us, and the more we understand the work of the Holy Spirit in sealing us and empowering us, the more we will praise Him!

Ephesians 1:15-23 – Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him

Verses 15-23 are one sentence in the Greek text.

Verses 15-16

Because of their *faith* and *love*, Paul was thankful for them and prayed for them. Faith speaks of our vertical relationship. Love speaks of our horizontal relationships.

Verse 17

The Father of glory – The Father to whom all glory belongs! Note Acts 7:2 and 1 Cor. 2:8.

Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him – This wisdom and revelation has to do with knowing Christ!

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:2

Verse 18

The eyes of your heart may be enlightened – The prayer is for true spiritual insight into God. Paul is praying that the wonderful principles of our position in Christ will move from our heads into our hearts. Focus on our position should always result in change in our condition.

Verses 18-19

So that you may know –

1 – *What is the hope of His calling*

2 – *What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

3 – *What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe*

So that you may know – Reflect on verses 3-14

The Father – *What is the hope of His calling*

The Son – *What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

The Spirit – *What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe*

Verse 19

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might –

Power = dynamis – “Inherent power”

Working = Energeia – Great power and strength. Six times of God, twice of Satan.

Strength = kratos – “Mighty with great power”

Might = ischus – “Ability, strength, power”

Verses 20-23 The Manifestation of His Power!

Which He brought about in Christ – Paul will now point out three ways God has manifested His power in Christ. There is a past, present, and future aspect revealed in God’s mighty work.

Past – *When He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all...* Romans 8:24, Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 12:2, 1 Peter 3:22 all speak of the resurrected position and power of Christ.

Present and future – *Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet...*

Present – *God gave Him as head over all things to the church* – In this present age Christ is Lord over the members of His body, the church.

His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all – Christ, the head of the body, fills the church with blessings.

After demonstrating our spiritual, positional blessings in 1:3-14 Paul prayed that we would come to know God intimately (head heart) and realize three facts:

1 – The *past* call of God the Father that produced hope

2 – The *future* inheritance that God has in His saints

3 – The *present* power of God that is available to us as believers

This *present* power of God that is available to us as believers...

1 – Was manifested in the past in Christ’s resurrection and Ascension

- 2 – Will be manifested in the future in Christ's headship over all Creation
- 3 – Is presently manifested in Christ's headship over the Church