

POSITION AND CONDITION

BASIC DISPENSATIONAL LESSONS - PART IV

*"By [Christ] we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

~ Romans 5:2

1. An important distinction

- a. The Bible can be understood literally → Israel and Church → Law and Grace
- b. There arise contradictions in what... we know/we feel, we are/we do, we have/we use
- c. Ignorance here produces errors re: flesh/Spirit, faith/fellowship, salvation/service, eternal security/holiness (Calvin/Arminian), union/communion, etc.
- d. This dispensational truth is the distinction between position and condition

2. Position (Standing)

- a. Position ~ *def.* That which identifies you and imparts to you certain privileges, powers, responsibilities, benefits, and association with people – your role/ your title/ your rank.
 - i. Your position is defined and can be the same as others – your place
- b. "thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God" - Deu 7:6-8, 14:2
- c. "[I] anointed thee king over Israel" – 2 Sam 12:7
- d. "wherein we stand" - Rom 5:1-2; "if any man be in Christ, he is..." – 2 Cor 5:17
- e. "we are members of his body" – Eph 5:30, 1 Cor 12:13, "complete in Christ" – Col 2:10
- f. "seated in heavenly places" "all spiritual blessings" – Eph 2:6, Eph 1:3
- g. "we are his workmanship" – Eph 2:10; "called saints, with all..." – 1 Cor 1:2, 1:30, 4:1-
 - i. But what about → 1 Cor 4:2, 3:3, 5:1-2

3. Condition (State)

- a. Condition ~ *def.* Your performance, your character, your circumstance, your present physical place, state of mind or emotion.
 - i. Your condition varies and can differ from others – how you play
- b. Man in his best state is altogether vanity - Psalm 39:5
- c. "whatsoever state I am in" – Phil 4:11, "to know your state" – Phil 2:19-20
- d. He condemns their state and exhorts them by your standing/position - 1 Cor 6:1-11
- e. We are living with Christ, but are to mortify our members - Col 3:1-8
- f. We see a compare/contrast to our position/condition here - 2 Cor 4:5-11

4. Why it is dispensational?

- a. Your position depends on God. What you do and what it means depends on God.
- b. Israel had a position, but then God concluded ... Rom 11:32
- c. Gentiles had no position, but now in Christ Jesus... Eph 2:13
- d. Position affected by your performance = law
- e. Position not affected by your performance = grace
- f. If you stand by grace then you cannot be moved; if you stand in covenant your condition matters.