

“...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

Scripture Block: Pp 1:1-11

Theme: GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

Life verse: Pp 1:9-11

Today’s passage: Pp 1:1

Notes Interpretation

The believer in Jesus Christ has a title—saint! As a result, the believer is said to be set apart unto God’s purposes. We can firm this concept up even further, by looking at the believer’s unassailable “position in Christ.” Consider just one supporting passage:

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. . Eph 2:4-6

Note carefully the three things that are true of every believer: made alive; raised up; and seated in the heavenly realms. What’s more, in each case, we have these things as part of a standing that is ours “in” or “with” Christ. These aspects of the new life we have in Christ are often called positional truth. It is called this because through faith in Christ, we have been given a position, or standing, in our Lord and Savior. It is this union with Christ which is the basis of our spiritual life and the “new creation” we are in Christ. This union is so complete and far-reaching, that we are even told to see ourselves associated with Christ at the right hand of the Father.

Application

The world struggles mightily with the concept of self-esteem. On the one hand, there are those who spend a life-time struggling under a load of guilt and a low view of themselves. Then there are those who constantly display the need to elevate themselves by pushing down those around them. And we have all met individuals who have a grossly inflated view of self. As the truth of who and what we are in Christ dawns in our consciousness, we realize how far off the mark is the thinking of the world around us. For the correct view of self is an outward view—one of esteem for the Lord Jesus Christ in whom we see ourselves! Christ is the ultimately worthy one, and yet we find ourselves irrevocably connected to him. This is the solid foundation for a correct view of self.

I would like to add one more point of application related to our title of “saint” and position in Christ. These two concepts, coupled together, develop a picture for us of who and what we really are as children of God. These concepts need to be thoroughly reinforced in our thinking so that when any of us would find ourselves at the “door of temptation” we would have reason to pause, as to go through that door would be a contradiction of who and what we really are!