

The Christian's Position "In Christ"

Lesson #7 – Eternal Promise and a Certain Hope

In lesson #6, we discussed how Jesus the Christ is not an absent Lord. He is ever present with us. He is identified with us before the Father. His work is entirely sufficient for the satisfaction (propitiation) of the righteous wrath of the Father. It is impossible to be more secure in our relationship with the God-head than to be "in Christ".

This week we will look at what we are promised "in Christ".

I. We Are Secure in Christ:

We have been promised "eternal life" in Christ. What does that mean? It means that once one is "in Christ" by faith in His finished work, all of our sins, past, present, and future, have been paid for. We have been changed! We have been born as a new creation in Christ. We are now capable to be in fellowship with the God-head. We have been adopted into the family of God as His own sons and daughters. It is not possible to be other than secure as sons and daughters of the Father.

Rom 8:31-39 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." ³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This passage speaks for itself regarding the security we have in Christ.

II. We Have Immense and Immutable Promises in Christ:

What are we promised "in Christ"?

1 Cor 1:2-9 *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1. We have been sanctified in Christ Jesus – This is a past tense regarding part of God's action in redemption. This means that we have been set aside for God's purpose(s). v. 2
2. We have been given grace and peace from God and from Jesus Christ. v. 3
3. Because of this unmerited favor we have been enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge. v. 5

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4. The testimony of Christ has been confirmed in us already through the indwelling Holy Spirit. v. 6
5. We are not lacking in any spiritual gift. v. 7
6. Christ Himself confirms us to the end. We have been confirmed as blameless. v. 8
7. God is faithful, unchanging in His commitment to we who were called into fellowship with His Son. v. 9

III. We Have a Certain Hope in Christ:

We are certain of our ultimate destiny as revealed in Scripture. Our hope (that which we have not yet seen) is a certain hope because this hope is based on the character of God in revealing Himself and His plan to His saints. This hope is known with certainty, although we have not yet seen it.

1 Thess 4:13-18 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

“hope” ἐλπίδα elpida (Strong's #1680) “The majority of the NT writers invest elpis, “hope”, with the nuance of ‘confident expectation’ or ‘solid assurance,’” It’s normal meaning in “koine*” Greek is weaker in the sense of a “wish”.

*“Koine” means – common; the common Greek as opposed to Classical Greek.

An instructive example of the use of “hope” in the NT is found this very book, in –

1 Thess 5:8 *But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.*

After death we are still in Christ. We are entirely secure, sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Rev 14:13-16 *And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." ¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

In Christ, we have rest from our labors upon our death. Our gains are solidified. They are eternal gains. Our good deeds follow us into heaven, glorifying our Lord and bringing honor to ourselves.

1 Pet 5:6-11 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking*

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someone to devour. ⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. ¹¹To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ, we have the certain promise of untold glory. Our glory in Christ is eternal. Christ will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. Our Lord Jesus will have dominion over the whole of creation forever and ever.

IV. Our Worship is in Heaven Now!*

When we worship in the Truth of Christ, we are included in the worship that currently is occurring in heaven.

It is like we are in the overflow room here on earth, but our prayers, our voices, our tears, our joy, are all piped into heaven and we are joined by the glorious ascension of the saints who have long before gone to be with Him. They are also in Him having no greater joy, nor any less, than we ourselves who are in Him while in this life.

When we truly worship we are included in the communion of saints for all time. We are included in the eternal praise of His people bringing glory the Father and to the Son. How do I know this???

Consider this passage which starts with a description of our terror and loss at the accusations of Sinai:

Heb 12:18-24 *For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, ¹⁹and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." ²¹And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."*

But finishes with a glorious current truth and/or a prophetic truth! ??*

²²*But you have come* to **Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

* New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (H-A); p. 1462 (Heb 12:22) re. "have come" refers to **Heterosis of Tenses (#2. past tense used for future tense)** frequently used to assert the certainty of a future promised or prophesied benefit or event. This Figure of Speech is listed in E. W. Bullinger's *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible* (J-A); pp. 512-534. Particularly the past tense used to express certainty of the future pp. 518-520.

Isa 46:8-13 *"Remember this, and be assured; recall it to mind, you transgressors. ⁹"Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; ¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far*

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country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.
¹²"Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, who are far from righteousness. ¹³"I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; and My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, and My glory for Israel.

This is the absolutely sovereign God that does what He says, that accomplishes His will and purpose, and grants salvation with absolute certainty in Zion!

Heb 4:14-16 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

V. Conclusion:

"In Christ", we are eternally secure!

"In Christ", we have an incredible inheritance where nothing is held back.

"In Christ", we have a certain hope that is grounded in the very sovereignty of the Father.

"In Christ", we currently have full access to heaven through our worship and prayer.

An Important Quote

In prophecy God almighty has stooped down to take us into the secret chamber of His eternal counsels and let us know what He has purposed to do in the future. The hundreds of prophecies in the Old and New Testaments are not so much predictions of what will come to pass, as they are revelations to us of what God has purposed SHALL come to pass.

A. W. Pink; from *The Sovereignty of God*; p. 119

"Be holy, for I am holy" is our Father's word to us, and it is no part of justifying faith to lose sight of the fact that God, the King, wants His royal children to live lives worthy of their paternity and position. **J. I. Packer**; *Knowing God*; p. 223

To see, and know, and love, and be loved by, the Father and the Son, in company with the rest of God's vast family, is the whole essence of the Christian hope. As Richard Baxter put it in his poetical version of the covenant with God to which his wife-to-be "subscribed with a cheerful will" on April 10, 1660: "My knowledge of that life is small; The eye of faith is dim; But it's enough that Christ knows all; And I shall be with Him." If you are a believer, and so an adopted child, this prospect satisfies you completely; if it does not strike you as satisfying, it would seem that as yet you are neither. **J. I. Packer**; *Knowing God*; p. 218