

The Believer's State and Standing

Verses refer to the believer's _____.		Verses refer to the believer's _____.	
Heb. 10:10	We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.	1 Thes. 5:23	Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.
Heb. 10:14	For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.	2 Cor. 13:11	Become complete (<i>perfect</i>).

Believer's Standing

Every believer has a standing (a position) before God in Christ. Believer's are positionally sanctified, or set aside for God's eternal purpose. The believer is perfect in God's sight because he is in Christ. The believer has been placed in the position by God, accepted in Christ as a member of the household of God.

Believer's State

The believer's life on earth is called his walk. The earthly life should be wholly set apart for God's use. The saved should live perfectly before God. The believer's state is the condition of their earthly life. It is the expression, or lack of expression, of their spiritual life in and through their earthly body.

Does Your State Reflect Your Standing?

The state is the sum total of the believer's experiences and, when in accordance with God's plan, is made up of communion with God, joy, peace, fellowship, labor of love for God and fellow man, and fruit bearing for God. To whatever degree these things are lacking, the believer's state is out of harmony with their standing. The purpose of the discipline of grace is to harmonize the walk of the believer (the state) with their eternal standing which is _____ and _____.

A Great and Wonderful Standing

Changed Masters – He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Col. 1:13). The believer once was in _____ (whose?) kingdom and under his sway, but now is in the realm of the Son

of God. From the moment of salvation, the believer is in the world, but not of the world (John 17:11, 14), a change of the greatest possible significance.

Not God's Enemy – The unsaved stand before God as _____ (Col. 1:13), but every saved person has been reconciled to God. When we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son (Rom. 5:10). Believer's have been made nigh (near) to God. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13). They are now "no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

A Perfect Standing, From God Not By Man

To accomplish this great change from being without God (Eph. 2:19) to the closest and most intimate position held by any creature, several things must be done by God. All of these things become effective the moment a person is saved.

Redeemed From Under the Law (Gal. 4:5) – "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13). This redemption was with "with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:19). "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

Complete Forgiveness of Sins Against the Law – With redemption from under the law, there is complete forgiveness of sins against that law. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence" (Eph. 1:7, 8). The purging of sins is specifically said to be by the Son Himself (Heb. 1:13).

Sins against the law → Forgiven at the moment of salvation. Part of the believer's _____.

Sins against _____ → Forgiven after confession (1 John 1:9). Part of the believer's _____.

Justification Before God – Another element of the believer's standing, directly related to redemption, is justification. "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). This is a free gift, made possible by the righteousness of Jesus Christ and because He "bare our sins in his body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24). "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21). Justification is more than forgiveness of sins. It is to be in Jesus Christ, clothed in His righteousness, standing before God as though one had never sinned.

God, Our Father – The standing includes the relationship of a child to his father. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God ... who were born ... of God.” (John 1:12, 13). Here is a spiritual relationship with God.

If a Child, Then an Heir – “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal. 4:7). The Father has made all believers “meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (Col. 1:12), and has given the Holy Spirit as an earnest (a guarantee) of this inheritance (Eph. 1:14). Every believer has been made accepted in the beloved Son of God (Eph. 1:16), and “is complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Col. 2:10).

God Cares For and Loves His Children – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Rom. 5:8-10). The believer will not be saved by Jesus’ earthly life, but the life which He now lives in Heaven at the right hand of the Father. Being saved by that life is said to be “much more” than being reconciled by His death. This must mean that God’s provision for the care and bringing unto glory of believers is much more than His provision for their justification and reconciliation unto Himself.

In addition to being objects of God’s care, all who are His own are objects of His never failing love. “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38, 39).

A Completed and Unalterable Standing

The spiritual relationship with God by birth is as real and unchangeable as the relationship by physical birth of a child to an earthly father. But it is more, the life by spiritual birth is eternal life. “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36). This eternal life is the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23). When one remembers that “the gifts ... of God are without repentance”

(Rom. 11:29), it is clear that the believer's standing before God is for time and eternity.

A careful study of all the statements concerning the believer's standing before God will reveal that all is said to be of God. All is through Jesus Christ. In no case is there room for any contribution on the part of man. The only condition placed upon man is to believe. As faith is dependence upon God, it adds nothing to that which God does. It merely gives Him the opportunity to work.

It is also evident that all of the above, except the unfailing care and love of God, is declared to be a finished work, and not something in the process of completion. This standing before God has been sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption of the body (Eph. 4:13). The seal denotes a finished transaction (Jer. 32:10), also security, and an unalterable position (Dan. 6:17; Rev. 20:3).

The Standing Makes the State Possible

One must be born of the Spirit before he can lead a spiritual life. It is impossible to live pleasing unto God while dead in trespasses and sins and in rebellion against Him. There must first be reconciliation and acceptance in the Beloved.

In view of God's grace in providing for our standing before Him, believers should strive to live their lives in harmony with their standing. "Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light" (Col. 1:10-12). God has qualified us for our standing. We have not, through our walk, qualified ourselves. If you think that your walk produces your standing before God, then you introduce human merit in place of God's perfect work. Doing so destroys the absolute perfection of that which God uses as an argument to promote a state that is acceptable to Him.