



Sermon– September 16, 2018

Verses Covered

Ephesians 1:13 – 14

John 16:8

Romans 10:9 - 10

So open Your Bibles please to where we are which is Ephesians 1. We finish up the one sentence in the first section of Ephesians, 1:3 through 14. We talked about and, position and condition, every verse in the Bible falls into one of those two categories. Position, when we start, and condition matched in the Garden of Eden. They matched. Our position was we were the apex of God's creation. We were created in His image. So our position is high and our condition matched that. He talks about it, that God created us, in verse 3, to be holy and to be blameless in that holiness. We were set apart to Him. We enjoyed what He created us for; to enjoy Him. And so we enjoyed Him. He enjoyed us. And there was this great relationship. And then we, by believing what the enemy told us, lost our position and were booted out. And now our condition, that is, our condition is how we respond to the position we're in. Now they're both bad. So what Ephesians tells us, according to Paul, is that God had decided when He created us that if we lost that position, that He would re-adopt us. That He would adopt us. We would lose sonship, but He would adopt us. So He makes a statement that He created us and that He created us for adoption so that somewhere along the way He can adopt you and then your condition can reflect that.

Now so the Father's role is to authorize your adoption after the fall. The role of the Son, we've seen in two Sundays, the role of the Son is to authenticate that authority. Jesus died on the cross. He says He's a ransom payment. Through His blood the forgiveness of our sins, our sins have been forgiven. Holy Spirit now indwells us and as a result of that we've been repositioned. We've been adopted. And so now we don't spend our life living out Baptist rules, we spend our life trying to reflect that position in our condition. That is how we live. We saw the fact that in the second part that that was not some odd thing that God did but then, in fact, He set the world up for that moment. Now here's our problem, though. That happened 2,000 years ago. It's interesting, I was reading this morning on Fox News and there was an article by Andy Stanley, a pastor in Georgia, who made this statement. That really we don't need to pay attention to the Bible, that it's all about Jesus, that there is no truth more important than people, which is odd because Jesus certainly ran people out of the temple over the truth that His house should be a house of prayer. But there's this idea somehow coming out that it's just Jesus. Which sounds good, there's just a small problem

here. I know we say, and Paul says, right, that He died on the cross. That it was a ransom payment for us through His blood. And the Bible says that He came out of the grave three days later. The Bible even says that several days later He ascended into heaven and that He's coming back. Now the problem that you and I have in this room is we weren't there. We're in 2018. That was 27 A.D. So it's been literally almost exactly 2,000 years. We weren't there so I don't know if He came out of the grave or not. Now Paul, who wrote this book was there. He was an eye witness and he lived in those days. He probably saw Jesus in Jerusalem. He certainly saw Him on the way to Damascus. But the bottom line, we're 2,000 years down the road. So how do I know that that's true since there's not a single eye-witness in the world today? So we have a problem. We've heard a story, but how do we know it's true? And that is the role of the third person of the Trinity. God the Spirit takes what God the Son authenticated, what God the Father approved, and now God the Spirit takes those and He applies it in our life. You cannot, if these next two verses are true, come to Jesus on your own. The Holy Spirit speaks to you, that's why the Bible says today if you hear His voice, harden not your heart. The Holy Spirit speaks to you and you put that off, you cannot just decide on your own to come to Jesus Christ. You need an eye-witness, and you have Him. Listen carefully. Verse 13.

¹³In Whom, you yourselves, after you have heard the word of truth,

Now listen. The Holy Spirit's job is to make you hear the truth about Jesus Christ. Somebody, whether you watch somebody on TV or you reach a track or you're reading the Bible or somebody comes up to you and tell you that God the Father chose for you to be redeemed and God the Son accomplished it. When you hear that, then the Holy Spirit comes and He makes that real. Now you stay where you are, but let me read you John 16. Listen to this.

⁸And that One, talking about the Holy Spirit, when He comes shall convict the world about sin and about righteousness and about judgment.

So the Holy Spirit's going to come to you and say, "You've sinned. Your condition reflects the fact that you don't have a position anymore." He's going to talk to you about righteousness, that the righteousness of Jesus can recreate that position in you and then He's going to talk to you about judgment and say if you don't accept this, your judgment is coming. So the Holy Spirit's job is to do this. Now the Greek word here in John 16 is the Greek word for convict, is the idea that you actually win an argument. Something no married man has ever known. See the men are afraid to laugh. They're like, "I don't think he's funny, baby." So but the Greek word literally means that you and I are in an argument and we come to a place where I know and you know that the argument has been won. Now that Greek word is what he says the Holy Spirit will do to the world. In other words, the Holy Spirit, when He comes to you, will convince you about what the word of truth. He will make you know that even though you don't have a single eye-witness, He will come to you and when you hear the truth about Jesus Christ, He will apply it in your life. He will come to you and say, "I was there. He did die. He is the ransom payment for you. And that's your only hope." Now He's going to convince you of that. That that word is true. Now I want you to hear that. OK. We live in a day in a lot of apologetics and I think they're great. We've got Ravi Zacharias and Josh McDowell. We've got a lot of guys that are really smart and have great defense of the Scripture and the Bible and that's great. But I'm telling you, you can have the smartest man in the world argue the truth of scripture, he cannot win a single person to Jesus Christ. It requires

the work of the Holy Spirit of God because as smart as he is, he's not an eye-witness. The One who wrote this book, the Holy Spirit that convicts you, was an eye-witness. So He's going to come and He's going to breathe that truth into your heart, that what happened is absolutely true. That it did happen. That in fact Jesus did come in the flesh. He did take on flesh in the womb of a virgin so that He's still God and yet man. He was tempted in every way. He did go to the cross. And that death on the cross, through the blood, is a ransom payment and we know it's correct ransom payment because He came out of the grave. That is absolutely true. Now the Holy Spirit of God, I can tell you that over and over and over, but the Holy Spirit of God is responsible for being the eye-witness to you and saying to you, "Hey, that word is true."

Second thing he says, listen to this, the word of truth, which is the good news about your salvation. We use words like salvation, justification, all these things nobody knows what they mean. Let me explain salvation real simply. Salvation is that you're repositioned as God's child. You're not, Bible says you and I are separated from God, so I'm not His child. But now in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit convicts me that the word I've just heard is true and not only is it true, but it is my hope. The word is not just true, it is my hope. It is the good news of my salvation. And that word, that truth about Jesus is what will save me. That is, it will reposition me. It will adopt me back to the Father. It is the source of my adoption. It is the good news of my salvation. That's why Jesus said in John 14, I and I alone and the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. It's why Peter, when he was preaching in Acts 4, verse 12, said there's no other name given under heaven whereby men can be saved. If you allow your children to kind of figure out what they need to, you have missed the boat. The single only name that can reposition you as an adopted child of God is the name of Jesus Christ. There isn't any other name. And He doesn't go by another name. Sometimes in SBTC life, we've had missionaries that have gone to mosques and knelt and said, well God, Jehovah, and Allah are all the same. No sir! Jehovah and Allah are not the same. Mohammed and Jesus are not the same. Jesus alone is the name that can pull you out of the mess you're in. So He's it. So we need to understand that. And that's good news. You know why it's good news? Because Jesus wasn't Baptist. So it's good news. He's the Savior. And the fact that He's not Baptist, He's not coming in with a bunch of rules. My daughter's getting married on October 20th, we are having dance floor at her wedding in my backyard. My daughter's excited. She's dancing with me now. So it's not a matter of being Baptist. It's a matter of being saved. So He's the good news of my salvation. How do I know that? Wasn't there. Because the eye-witness who was there has told me so. So He's let me know this is true, this story I heard about Jesus. And that not only is it true, but it's my hope. It's the good news that I can be repositioned, now look at this,

[in whom also after having believed](#)

Now when the Holy Spirit comes to me and says, "Alright the story you just heard about Jesus is true and it's the only hope you have." When He convicts me of that, when He puts that into my soul, what happens? Belief. It's automatic. When the kids in first grade or kindergarten, whenever they do these things now. He goes into class, teacher counts one to ten; one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Says two and two is four and takes four little things out, puts two here and two here and says, "See if you add these two together it's one, two, three, four." He goes home, he doesn't look at his parents and say, "It's five." Because it's a fact. He has clearly seen. It is four. Two and two is four. You learn that as a fact and your belief, he doesn't have to go

home and go, “I wonder if the teacher was telling me the truth. Let’s see, let me run over that again.” You don’t have to do that. You immediately go home because it was a fact. The Holy Spirit of God, third person of the Trinity, makes you know that this is a fact. That his death is the word of truth and the only hope you have. He makes you know that it is a fact and when you know it’s a fact, now listen, walk with me here. Now listen. You automatically have faith. You never have faith in something that’s not a fact. If something’s an absolute fact, you automatically have faith. You have faith. That’s why in Romans 10:17, the old translation in the King James is woefully inadequate. It said faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. No, no, no, no, no. Faith comes by hearing and according to the Greek, by the word of Christ. In other words, when the Holy Spirit tells me about Jesus in me and how all that fits together, that’s a fact. Now I automatically have faith. But that, now listen, that’s not enough. You say, “What do I mean? Bible says we’re saved through faith.” That’s right. But listen carefully. OK. You have the capacity to believe, but belief isn’t enough. The Bible says the demons believe and tremble. It’s not enough to know it’s a fact. Now listen. You have to surrender to that fact. John 1:12 says

To as many received Him, to them became the sons of God.

How do we receive Him? Now listen. You stay in Ephesians. But listen to Romans chapter 10. Listen.

⁹if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and you believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with a heart, a man believes resulting in righteousness and with a mouth, confession is made that results in salvation.

So here’s what you do. When you have the Holy Spirit speak to your soul and you hear that, and you realize, you know this story about Jesus is true and it’s my only hope, when you know that, you have two things you can do. You can say, “OK. But I don’t want Him.” You can do that. Or you can kneel and say, “Father obviously You did it for me. It’s a gift You give me. I don’t do anything to earn it and I’m going to surrender my life to the truth that you told me about Jesus on the cross and that that applies to me like it applies to anybody else that desires it. That you have, in fact today, declared it can be mine and I surrender to that truth.” No demon has ever surrendered to that truth because they’re not given the option. You are. You have the chance to surrender to the truth that the Holy Spirit drives into your soul. And you do it verbally. Your heart belief is automatic. Your verbal response to Him is your choice.

And it works both ways. I had a lady in Midland, Linda Kaler, who came maybe one time and said I’ve got a lady that I’ve been, she and her husband, her husband did construction, they worked with a real estate agent, named Jeannie Prince. And she said, “Talked to Jeannie about Christ a few times. She’s not a believer. I really want you to pray with me about her.” And so we begin to pray. She spent a year, every opportunity she had sharing Christ with Jeannie. One Saturday night, about 9:30 or 10, she called me and she said, “Brother Chris, I don’t know what to do.” I said, “What?” She said, “I prayed for a year and I no longer have the desire. It’s like tonight God just took it out of my soul. It’s gone.” I said, “Well then I wouldn’t pray anymore. I’d let it go.” She said, “Man it kills me. OK.” So our assumption, of course, was that in all that year of processing and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, that she had rejected. But the next morning at the 8:15 service, Jeannie gets up the minute the invitation is given, walks down to the front and

verbally said to Jesus, “I surrender to the truth you put on my heart.” And if you’re saved in an 8:15 service, only the Holy Spirit can do that.

When I was in college, freshman year, had a roommate, Phillip, who had a lot of issues and I’d just been called in the ministry and this is embarrassing to admit, when you’re first called in the ministry, you don’t know anything about the Bible but you believe you do. I remember I was dating this girl in high school and her parents hated me and just been called to preach and I mean it’s like two weeks later I’m at the house on a Sunday night. And the mother made some statement about reading the book of Hezekiah and I said, “Boy I just read that, it was great.” She said, “It’s not in the Bible.” And walked out of the room. Those are the moments you just, you just got to eat it. So I thought it was funny; apparently you don’t. That’s what happens when you write a dissertation on humor. Nothing’s funny anymore. But I, my roommate, I was real arrogant toward him and there were some issues he had. He had a lot of issues with drugs and a lot of things. But he had an uncle visit one day. He came in and he was down the hall getting ready to go and uncle and I were in the room talking and we began to talk about, uncle said, “What are you majoring in?” I said, “Bible.” He said, “What are you going to be?” “Preacher.” So naturally we begin to talk some. And we begin to talk, while he was getting ready, about Jesus. Real quick. But he began to ask really great questions. And it was obvious that he was intensely interested in what the truth was. Shared with him about 20 minutes. About three weeks later, he came back to pick up his nephew. We were talking and I’ll never forget this as long as I live. It’s almost similar to what Festus said to Paul in the book of Acts, but he walked up to me when his nephew had left the room and he said, “Hey, man. You almost had me last time we were together. You almost had me, but I’m done with that.” When the Holy Spirit tells you that He was an eye-witness and that the stuff in here really is true, you now have two options. You can say, “I know it’s true, but I don’t care.” Or you can say, “I know it’s true and with my mouth and my heart, I’m going to surrender to that truth as the hope for my life.”

Now if you make the choice to surrender, which Jeannie did at this point probably 35 years ago, if you make that point to surrender, look what happens.

[after you hear the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation – which also having believed, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.](#)

Sealed! You know what a sealing is? It means there’s no opening. You are sealed. If you don’t seal something, if there’s a little bit of opening, it’s not sealed and it’s ruined. Sealing means no opening. It is sealed. This particular Greek word was used for a king’s ring. That when he would seal a letter, he would put wax on it and then he would take his ring and he would put his indentation in the wax which meant every single person that picked that letter up went, “Oh, man, I can’t touch that letter. I can’t mess with that letter because that has the king’s seal. Only he has the authority to unseal it.” Listen to me. When you come to Jesus Christ and He speaks to you and the Holy Spirit says, “Look what you know about the death of Jesus is absolutely true.” It’s your only hope, you put your belief in there, you surrender to that belief. Listen, when you do that, the Holy Spirit indwells you permanently. He seals you. How long? Until the day of redemption. He seals you until the day Jesus takes you home. The enemy, he’s lost you. I heard the other day, there was a professor at a noted seminary in California who’s teaching people that as a Christian that you can be demon possessed and that you really need to look at all these spiritual

warfare tools to be able to handle what's in your life. Let me tell you something. You're not sealed by an angel. You're not sealed by a cherub. You're not sealed by a Seraph. You're sealed by the third person of the Trinity. Michael may have trouble with Satan. Gabriel may have trouble with Satan. Satan has no trouble with the Holy Spirit. He doesn't come because you are sealed. He can't have you anymore. You're sealed how long? Until the day of redemption. Until a redemption of possession. Until you receive your inheritance under the praise of His glory.

So understand. The trinity, God the Father, God the Spirit, in creation, all did the same thing in creation. That Godhead, that one God in three persons, created us as the apex of their creation, of His creation so that we could, in our condition, give glory back to that great God. But there was a tree here and a guy here and the guy told us that what the Father told us about the tree was wrong. And that if we eat from the tree, we'll be just like He is. So we did that and we lost our position and our condition. But the Creator wasn't caught blinded. The Creator had already set in motion, inside the Godhead, the discussion had been that the Father would authorize our way back. That it would authorize our adoption, that God the Son would take on flesh and execute that adoption, and that God the Spirit would come into the world and convince us, as an eye-witness, of the truth of that adoption. And now what's happened to us? We've been restored back to the Garden of Eden. They had a choice based on faith. We have a choice based on faith. Their choice based on a lack of faith blew up their position and destroyed their condition. Our choice, based on faith, can restore our position and change our condition. And we can reflect the glory of God from the day we hear from the Spirit until the day we go home. We have a great God!

Let's pray.

Father just these verse stagger me. I don't, I don't know why You love us that much. I don't know why You want that much fellowship with us. I don't know why You made us the apex of what You did. I don't know why You chose to adopt us. I don't know why You've done everything You've done. But I'm standing here telling You I am grateful. So Father honor Your word this morning. In Jesus Christ name.