

POSITIONAL TRUTH

Request: I noticed that the phrase “in Christ” is used a lot in the NT. Would you do a study on it?

The phrase “in or with Christ” is used some 164 times in the NT as a doctrinal phrase to teach the theology of positional truth.

In our lesson text, Paul teaches that POSITIONAL TRUTH is part of God grace salvation package (5:17-21/reconciliation).

**This lesson will study six aspects of POSITIONAL TRUTH
helping us understand the importance of the phrase “In Christ” in the NT.**

1. Positional Truth is the transfer of a person from a fallen position in Adam to an exalted position “in Christ” as a result of grace salvation (2 Cor.5: 17-21).

Personal faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ transfers that person from the fallen position in Adam to the exalted position “in Christ.” (1 Cor.15: 22)

- Gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4) euangelion
- Believe (Rom.1:16) pisteuo
- Salvation (Eph.2:8-9) soteria (soteriology)

All members of human race are physically born “in Adam” because of AOS (Rom.5:12, 17-19, 21).

AOS (Adam’s original sin) consists of 13 judicial charges that separate mankind “in Adam” (Rom.3:23).

2. The transfer from “in Adam” to “in Christ” is referred to as RAPT (retroactive positional truth).

Retroactive Positional Truth (RAPT) means that every member of the human race becomes identified with the spiritual death, burial, and resurrection by faith in gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18; Rom.6: 10-11; Col.1: 13; 3:3; John 5:24; 1 John 3:5).

Positional Truth of “In Christ” results in 50 things in the package of grace salvation that a believer can never lose in time or eternity.

3. The mechanics for placing the believer at salvation “in Christ” is the baptism of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12: 13; Gal.3: 27).

Baptism of Holy Spirit is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit at salvation (Gal.3:2; John 7:38-39; Rom.6:3-4; Col.2:12; 3:1; Eph.1:3; 2:5-6; 4:5).

We refer to this as current positional truth (CPT). CPT means that every church age believer is in exalted position “In Christ.” This means that everything that is Jesus seated at the right hand of God we are now and forever (2 Cor.5:17). This is also referred to as positional sanctification. It is also referred to as TOP CIRCLE of Positional Truth.

4. The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is the source of the spiritual life of being “in Christ” (1 Cor.6: 19-20; Gal.5: 16, 25; Rom.8: 8-11, 26-27).

We refer to this as Experiential Positional Truth (EPT). EPT means that every church age believer is living the Christian way of life (CWL) by means of the filling ministry of indwelling Holy Spirit (FHS) found in Eph.2. Note the phrases of “in or with or through Christ” (Eph 2:5-10, 13,15,18, 20,21,22; Eph.5: 18; Gal.5: 16; 1 Thess.4: 3-8; 2 Cor.7: 1).

This is also referred to as the BOTTOM CIRCLE of Positional Truth.

5. Positional Truth guarantees eternal life security for all church age believers (Rom.8: 1-2,8-11; 1 John 5:11-13).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those IN CHRIST JESUS.” (Rom.8:1)

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separated us from the love of God, which is IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.” (Rom.8:37-39)

6. Positional Truth belongs to the carnal as well as the spiritual believer and the reversionist as well as the spiritual mature believer (1 Cor.1: 2; Luke 15:11-32).

“But by His doing you are IN CHRIST JESUS, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” (1 Cor.1:30)

This means that the church age believer cannot improve, cancel, or destroy his position “in Christ” anymore than the unbeliever can his position “in Adam”.

Therefore, the theology of Positional Truth can be best understood and remembered by the following:

- **Retroactive Positional Truth (RAPT)**
- **Current Positional Truth (CPT)**
- **Experiential Positional Truth (EPT)**