

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Our Position in Christ

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Father we invite your presence to rest upon these your people, the sheep of your pasture that have come. May they be led in the rich green pastures, bed down there, lie down there in the rich green pastures of The Word of God this day. May they drink from the still peaceable waters of the Holy Ghost this day, which is flowing out from the throne of God without measure. May they rest confident in your presence today. May Gods plan and purpose be done in their lives. In Jesus name. Amen and Amen.

Jesus didn't just teach. He did what he taught. And he taught what he did. It's important that we have a revelation of who we are in Jesus so that we can be partakers of the benefit that Jesus provided for us on the cross. Some place in our spiritual walk with him we are going to have the understanding that God is for me and not against me. Healing, prosperity, peace or whatever area we are struggling with is available to us if we have the understanding that they are the will and plan of God for us. Until we have this understanding we will never be partakers of it.

In Ephesians chapter one Paul was praying for the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:16-19 (KJV)

¹⁶Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

¹⁷That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

¹⁸The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Paul was saying here that the church wasn't aware of the power or ability that was within them. He wanted them to have a divine revelation of who they are in Jesus Christ and they would understand what the riches the exceeding greatness of His riches of His glory of His inheritance in the saints. Hebrews 10:12-14 and Ephesians 3:10 are scriptures that encourage us to rise up in glory and how God is waiting for us to rise up and put the enemy under our feet and walk in victory in Jesus name.

From Paul's standpoint we are believers and we do have faith because when we are born again in Jesus Christ we were given the measure of faith. As believers we are not struggling to believe or have faith it was given to us when we were born again. We have the spirit of faith. There is not trying to get it.

Ephesians 1:20-23 (KJV)

²⁰Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

²²And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

²³Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Paul is saying we are His body and it's the fullness the completeness of Him. The purpose of the church is to fulfill and complete the purpose God has in the earth for Jesus' approximate three years of ministry on the earth. God's plan is for the church now to come along and complete the ministry and anointing that Jesus operated under and what he did in his three years.

Ephesians 2:6 (KJV)

⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Father God looks at and sees us through the finished work of Jesus. He doesn't see us as failures.

Ephesians 6:10 (KJV)

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 6:11-18 (KJV)

¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The emphasis is that WE CAN STAND. When our faith is being tried we can stand. When the adversary and all his forces come against you you can stand and resist him successfully and put him under your feet. He is a defeated foe.

The devil has a plan to cause us to fall, but God also has a plan to prosper us. Trickery deceit and craftiness are the wiles of the devil but The Word says we can stand if we put on our armor. We have power over the adversary.

Colossians 2:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

¹⁵And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Our identity is in Jesus not in our circumstances. All things are under our feet. We are not failures. We are all successes because and in Jesus Christ.

In Luke chapter 10 Jesus called together and gave his disciples power over demons, sickness and disease. In their ministry they began to realize they were inadequate and limited. Jesus commissioned 70 more in the same. They were sent out, came back happy and rejoicing. They said that the demons were subject to them.

Luke 10:19 (KJV)

¹⁹Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Other translations use the word authority in place of power. God has given us authority and the principalities and powers and demon spirits recognize it. They may come to deceive but the authority has been given. When you have a sense and an awareness of the presence of Jesus you will demonstrate that authority.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Jesus never ministered on earth as the son of God but as a man anointed by the Spirit of God. It is stated in Phillipians 2:5-11.

We are more familiar with physical death than spiritual death. We know spiritual death means not making heaven and not having God in their life. Jesus died spiritual death for us. He was judged for us. He was the firstborn from spiritual death; the first to be born again. It was through his spiritual death that he was able to crush the adversary and destroy them. We are partakers of the victory. The devil has been literally stripped of his power.

We are new creatures. All things are new.

Hebrews 10:1-2 (KJV)

¹For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Hebrews 10:12-13 (KJV)

¹²But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

The shed blood of Jesus blotted out sin with no remembrance once we ask forgiveness. The church needs to put the devil under their feet. He is expecting us to do it. He expects us to walk in victory.

Joshua overtook 31 kings in five years to take the land. God empowered to bring it to pass. During that time five kings had made an alliance to come against Joshua and his men. God got involved and stopped the sun and gave them a longer day to whip the enemy.

In Joshua chapter 10 speaks about bringing the five kings out of hiding. Joshua knew the power of victory and momentum. Joshua had his close associates put their feet on their necks. He wanted them to experience victory. God wants that same feeling of victory and not defeat for us. He wants us to know what it feels like to win. When we learn to win we and then when the adversary comes we can fast forward because we know the outcome will be. No need in getting upset we know the outcome if we trust Jesus. God declares the end from the beginning.

Joshua 10:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

²⁵And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

In order to possess victory we are going to have to be of good courage. If you think that you can sit back and do nothing for your Canaan land, your promised land, you are mistaken. There is a struggle and a battle a plan set against you to keep you from experiencing your Canaan land here on the earth which is victory, health and prosperity.

If we could grasp the revelation that God is good and that He is for you and He is waiting and rejoicing for his inheritance of riches and glories in the church (which is you and me). That is what it's all about.

We must every time the adversary comes against us put him under our feet. We must keep him there. We have been given the power and authority to do so.

The devil is under our feet. Every plan and every scheme the devil has devised for us is under our feet.

Pastor gave an alter call.

Father this is a new day. I ask you to forgive me when I have sinned and missed the mark. Right now I receive my forgiveness. I am sorry Lord. I am coming back to you and right now I am in fellowship with you and right now I believe in my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and I accept Him as my Lord. I am born again. I am a new creature. I am in right fellowship with Jesus, and right now I give him thanksgiving for it. Thank You Lord