

1 October 2017

## A believer's standing before God (Pt 3 Is unchangeable).

In our previous study on a believer's standing before God we established that the saved are also forgiven, washed, and cleared. In this teaching we establish from the scriptures that the saved are also sealed by the Holy Spirit, members of the body of Christ, and heirs of God.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Sealed by the Spirit of God unto the day of redemption.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard...the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" (Eph.1: 13), c.f. Eph.4: 30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Once the lost believe the gospel of Christ crucified (1Cor.15: 1-4), once they have "trusted the word of truth" their standing before the Lord is as "the temple of God" (1Cor.3: 16).

### 2. Members of the body of Christ.

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (1Cor.12: 27). See also Rom.12: 5.

Hence why we call others who are also saved our brethren, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### 3. Sons and daughters, and an heir of God.

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal.4: 7).

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal.3: 29).

Additional comments on our three points.

If we are NOT sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption then those that believe they can lose your salvation speak truth – then we would all be in and out of the body of Christ, one moment we would be a son or a daughter, and an heir to the promises, a seed of Abraham, and the next moment we sin, we would be out of the body – being "aliens from the the commonwealth of Israel" (Eph.2: 12). So those who reject the doctrine of eternal security (established from point 1) would be constantly changing their standing before God dependant on **their** behaviour, and would not "live by the faith of the Son of God..." (Gal.2: 20).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

There was a young believer handing out invites to the Vineyard church sing-song and he stopped one evening to give a free ticket to a preacher on Queen street. Fairly quickly into the discussion the preacher spoke about eternal security and soon realised that the Vineyard church teach a man can lose his salvation when he sins. The preacher suggested the young man look up Eph.1: 13. Since then the young man has stayed away from the topic when the two meet.

Question to think about.

What is the difference between a Jehovah Witness that believes they have to work going door-to-door to earn his salvation and a Vineyard church-goer that is taught they can lose their membership in the body of Christ, their sonship?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

None! If you can lose your membership in the body of Christ you can earn it, and if you can earn it "then is it no more grace" (Rom.11: 6), but works, and the gift of God is "Not of works, lest any man should boast:" (Eph.2: 8, 9). "Where is boasting? It is excluded...by the law of faith" (Rom.3: 27). But a Christian (a person that believes the gospel) has a standing before God because of Christ's faith and is assured of their permanent membership in the body of Christ, and sonship as an heir of God. It is no different to our physical sons that cannot lose their sonship. Let us rejoice, in our eternal security – saved by faith, by grace, and kept secure by God's grace!