

The Stance of the Believer

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Broadcast Dates: 5/18/23-5/19/23

Message Date: 1/8/23 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:8, 9, *NLT*
- Philippians 2:12, 13 *NLT*
- Philippians 2:12
- Philippians 1:6, *NLT*
- Colossians 1:13
- John 17:11, 14
- Romans 5:10
- Ephesians 2:13, 19

Summary:

*As believers, it is important that we know the truth about our salvation. We were saved because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We did nothing to earn it; it was given as a gift from God. This directly contradicts religious thinking, which tells us that we must work hard for our redemption. Because of what Jesus did and our belief in it, we've already been made the righteousness of God. This is our **stance** in Christ, and nothing we do can change that. However, the ongoing process of transforming into perfection in our earthly lives will continue until we get to heaven; this is our **state**, that only God can change. Trusting His promise to make the necessary changes in us enables Him to bring our state into balance with our stance.*

Notes:

1. Believers are already perfect in God's eyes, but our earthly lives are *becoming* perfect.
2. God offers us salvation even though we cannot earn it and do not deserve it; it is available to anyone who believes. This contradicts religious thinking.
3. Although our stance in Christ and our state are at different levels, God will work in us to gradually bring up our state to match our stance. We cannot do this without Him, no matter how hard we work. We must get out of God's way and simply believe Him. Only *God* can change us.
4. Believers are in the world but not part of the world's systems. Our faith in Christ transforms us into His likeness. We must therefore ask ourselves if we are willing to be hated by the world for the Word's sake.
5. Jesus shed His blood and died to deliver us from the world. When we believe in Him, we are no longer part of this world, but citizens of heaven. This is our stance as believers, even when we take part in worldly things.

Category: faith

Keywords: believer, salvation, saved, faith, redemption, belief, righteousness, trusting