

**Current Positional Truth: Condemnation at Birth Makes Salvation and Eternal Life Possible; the First Messianic Prophecy, Gen 3:15; Salvation of Adam & Eve, v. 21; Top Circle Assets: What We Share with Christ: Righteousness, Ps 25:8–10; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:22**

- (36) What condemnation does is make grace possible. In the status quo of original perfection there was no need for grace. But following condemnation, grace becomes God's policy for resolving the sin problem.
- (37) Grace is the policy and justice is the point of contact. If man responds to the grace provision of a Messiah-Savior's sacrificial death, then righteousness will respond by approving the imputation of divine righteousness by divine justice.
- (38) Therefore, "greater blessings than the garden now in time is God's decree." Restricted to planet earth, the first couple operated on a day-by-day basis. Volition was tested daily; one mistake and everlasting life came to an instant conclusion.
- (39) Knowing volition would ultimately fail the test, God provided consequences that would separate Adam and Ishah from His perfect love and put them under His perfect justice.
- (40) In this way, only His grace could provide a legitimate solution to the problem. By demanding that justice condemn the two, righteousness became the point of responsibility.
- (41) Righteousness demands perfection and therefore justice must condemn imperfection. But when the man and the woman responded to the Lord's explanation of the substitutionary sacrifice of a future Messiah, they responded through faith alone.
- (42) The prophecy of the Messiah's work is directed to the serpent, i.e., Lucifer in:

**Genesis 3:14** - The Lord said to the serpent [ נָחָשׁ ] *nachash*: serpent used figuratively for Lucifer: Latin: *lucifer*: light-bearing; Hebrew: הֵלֵל בֶּן שָׁחַר *helel ben shachar*: "The Morning Star, Son of the Dawn." (Isaiah 14:12) ] ...

**v. 15** - And I will put hostility between you [ Lucifer ] and the woman [ Eve ], and between your seed [ the human race born in sin ] and her seed [ the sinless Messiah ]; He shall crush your head [ Operation Footstool at the Second Advent ], and you shall bruise His heel [ First Advent ].

- (43) The positive response to the gospel is recorded in:

**Genesis 3:21** - The Lord God [ Jesus Christ ] manufactured garments from coats of skin [ required the shedding of blood ] for the man and the woman.

- (44) By providing an innocent animal sacrifice, the Lord was able to demonstrate the future work of Messiah by which all sin would be removed as an issue for the human race.
- (45) Putting on the coats of skin indicate that Adam and Eve responded positively to the gospel and were now possessors of eternal life. Gone is the insecurity of the day-to-day contract in the garden with the loss of everlasting life a constant issue.

- (46) Instead they now have eternal security. They are delivered from the lake of fire and possess eternal life, a far better set of circumstances following condemnation than they knew previously in the garden of Eden.
- (47) To prevent their return to the tree of life and therefore restore their physical bodies to the status of everlasting life, the two were permanently barred from Eden. The body of corruption must die so that the resurrection body may be imputed.
- (48) Current positional truth is a category of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and it identifies the believer with the resurrection, ascension, and session of Christ.
- (49) The relationship the believer has with Christ at salvation is made possible by the imputation of divine righteousness which is the target for escrow blessings.
- (50) Righteousness is one of nine characteristics the believer shares with Christ under current positional truth.
- (51) Positional truth places the believer into union with Christ retroactively and currently. Under current positional truth we share with Christ what are known as top circle assets, i.e., those things possessed by Christ that, through faith in Him, we also possess:

1. **His Righteousness.** The divine standard for what is good, true, and perfect. All deviations are characterized as human viewpoint, human good, and evil. The divine standards are immutable, inerrant, and infallible. They are the foundation for the laws of divine establishment, the divine institutions, and Scripture and all human endeavors must comply with their principles or justice will impose corrections, discipline, and punishment appropriate for the violation.

Since God is righteous He cannot have a relationship with anything that is unrighteous. This righteousness is possessed by each member of the Trinity. Therefore, when any person believes in Christ for deliverance from the lake of fire and for eternal life, justice imputes divine righteousness to that individual.

Faith in the Person and work of Jesus as a solution to one's sin problem is a response to the love of God which provides salvation to a person with no merit. Since the person's sins were judged on the cross his faith in Christ results in forgiveness of all pre-salvation sins. Thus cleansed, the person is now made perfect and eligible for the imputation of divine righteousness. What righteous demands, justice executes. This imputation justifies us before the Supreme Court of Heaven. Under the baptism of the Holy Spirit we are placed into union with Christ. He is righteous therefore being in Him we share His righteousness.

Biblical documentation of believers sharing the righteousness of God includes the following:

**Psalm 25:8** - Good [טוֹב (tov): refers to perfect essence] and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way [דֶּרֶךְ (derech): way of life: righteous or wicked].

**v. 9** - He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way [derech].

**v. 10** - All the paths [אֲרָחַי 'orach: can refer to principle and function of divine integrity] of the LORD are lovingkindness [חֶסֶד cheseth: unfailing love<sup>1</sup>] and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Each member of the Trinity possesses divine righteousness which God imputes to every believer at salvation:

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness [δικαιοσύνη (dikaiosunē)] of God in Him [Current Positional Truth].

**Romans 3:22** - Even the righteousness [δικαιοσύνη (dikaiosunē)] of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe, for there is no distinction.

Therefore, since we possess the righteousness of God we share this attribute with Christ under the principle of positional truth.

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<sup>1</sup> “Divine *hesed* is enduring, persistent, even eternal. The biblical writers celebrate the everlastingness of God’s *hesed*. This is seen by way of contrast with things that are long-lasting but that may not last forever. In the Psalms, both God and human worshipers describe God’s *hesed* as everlasting. In addition, one finds the related affirmation that God’s *hesed* will be sung about forever, which is an oblique way of suggesting that his love itself will not end” (D. A. Baer and R. P. Gordon, “חֶסֶד,” in *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*, gen. ed. Willem A. VanGemeren [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997], 2:215).