

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

I. All Men Begin Life in Bondage to the Devil

- A. Ephesians 2:1-3

- B. John 8:44 - you are of your father, the devil

- C. Hebrews 2:14-15 - Subject to slavery

II. Saving Work of God Sets Men Free From That Bondage

- A. Colossians 1:13 - Delivered from the domain of darkness

- B. Acts 26:18 - That they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God

- C. Ephesians 2:4-6 - God raised us up to sit with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:21) above all rule and authority

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

~ John 8:44

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

~ Hebrews 2:14-15

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

~ Colossians 1:13

To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

~ Acts 26:18

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
~ Ephesians 6:12*

III. When We are Delivered We Become Part of God's Program to Bring Deliverance to Others

- A. We enter the great battle for men
 - 1. Satan is the enemy
 - 2. Men are the prize
 - 3. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood
Ephesians 6:12
- B. Two sides to what we must understand to enter that battle effectively
 - 1. How can we defend ourselves against the enemy?
 - 2. How can we take the fight to the enemy for the sake of others?

IV. Our Defense in the Battle

- A. Our position in Christ
 - 1. When we were delivered from sin we were also united to Christ
Romans 6
 - 2. According to Ephesians 2:6 we now share the position of Christ described in Ephesians 1:21. We are seated with Him in heavenly places above the authorities of this world

B. Putting on the whole armor of Christ is exercising faith in what that position provides
Ephesians 6:13-17; Isaiah 59:17

C. What will the attack against us look like?

1. Methods of attack

a. Temptation: give up the fight for personal satisfaction

b. Accusation:

(1) Devil is the accuser

(2) Brings real and imagined sins to our minds

c. Intimidation:

(1) He tries to convince us that the fight is useless

(a) Fear: it is too costly

(b) Discouragement: it is fruitless

2. Goal of the attack: QUIT

a. Answer: *Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not vain in the Lord.* 1 Cor. 15:58

b. It is always too soon to quit