

1830-1873 - H.M.

John Quincy Adams - Pres. U.S. Dramatic - both houses of Congress - 2 Bushel Measure -  
One Right hand - So. C. one left - N.Y. City - one contains 68 cubic inches more than the other one.  
Table - 2 one lb. weights - kind used on scales. one right mass. left Maine - one is 100 more  
Gentlemen we need a standard measure & weight for U.S. I Cor. 1:30

STANDING IN CHRIST

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

If the Christian life on this earth is in perpetual conflict it is certainly not lived in uncertainty. For the believer should not be subject to these constant anxieties.

What he is, in Christ, is something entirely above all the experiences of this world.

This is something that does not rise nor fall with the tide of feelings. It is not known by degrees. Christ, being the standard by which it is gauged, it becomes absolute. For he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

It is sad when people alternate between warm and coldness. Whether their love is strong today and feeble tomorrow. But this does not change the saints real standing before God.

We cannot today be in a state of justification, and then tomorrow out of it and in doubt and unfaithfulness. God does not look upon our acceptance of him in this way. He sees us only in the light of the true son of righteousness.

It is illustrated in the prodigal son. Even though he was faithless, he was just as dear to the father's heart as the son who remained at home, for he said "thou art always with me and all that I have is thine". The prodigal was no

less a son of his father and his sonship brought him into fellowship with his father. Now one disciple may have more affection for Christ but he cannot have more justification.

A man must either have the whole or none at all. He must either be justified from all things, or be condemned.

Our discipleship is not lived in uncertainty, but in the Covenant which God has made through Christ.

Now this was a problem here in the church at Corinth, Paul is dealing with concerning these saints. There was so much incompleteness. There was the imperfect on every hand. They were supposed to be a living symbol of united humanity but instead they were broken up into factions. I am of Peter, I am of Apollos, I am of Paul, I am of Christ. And here was a little struggling church in the midst of a roaring city - split four ways. And the result, instead of enriching and strengthening the church, it was hurting the work of Jesus Christ. One says, I am of Peter. He was an original disciple of Jesus. Another - I am Apollos. He was a graduate of Alexandria University with learned culture. I am of Paul - he came here without money, penniless, to preach the Gospel to us. I stick to Paul. And then there was the loyal group who said, we are of Christ.

The very people who should be showing forth to the divided world the unity that is in Christ, have themselves become the center of a new division. This was very stupid because it was a scandal of that day. And Paul began - is Christ divided. Was, Paul crucified for you. Were you baptized in his name. You do not have true wisdom. No one can have a corner on Christ - neither Paul nor Peter.

Christ, himself, is the foundation.

To these people the church is just another activity like the Rotary Club or the Woman's Club. There are people today who have religion but it is no serious concern of theirs - it is only an activity when it is convenient. It really is not the central thing in their soul. They say, we've got company. We went to see aunt so and so. I was out late Saturday night. The weather was stormy. Now these people have all kind of descendants of that ancient clan where Jesus talked about I have married a wife, I have bought a field, I have bought a yoke of oxen. To all these people, religion is just pleasant. If I please, and when I like the matter - I will attend church. Now Paul deals with this in a drastic way. And in order to encounter and to go against this - he has something to say about it. He tells those people that they are the temple of the Holy Spirit. And if a Christian says I am a cathedral of God, what cleansing affects the result will have.

In this old church of Corinth, Paul deals with willingness, marriage, order of worship, immortality, benevolence. He gets down to the deep foundation of the church. And he talks about how it is united. And the eternal Gospel message of the church. And he tells these people, ye are complete in Christ. You may never get any higher than this. How can it be true of imperfect, tempted, and failing believers, that they are complete in Christ.

#### I. IS REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT

Paul talking about the Christians' acceptance and standards before the righteous God - sees nothing but Jesus Christ alone and all together. The believer

is in him. And he shares his place in the Father's heart.

Eph. 1:6 - Says that he is accepted in the beloved. And what a blessed word is this - "In the beloved." In that voice that came from Heaven, this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.

We may now hear God's approving sentence upon ourselves, as well as upon our Lord. For being in Christ, the beams of eternal love falling upon Him, must fall upon us. We are included in this circle of the divine.

We cannot be loved of God, apart from Christ. For the divine approval can only go out to that which is worthy. And he is the worthy one. And neither can we be condemned if we are in Christ. Therefore, the Spirit has revealed this concerning our standing in Christ.

## ✓ II. REVEALED BY MEASURING OUR LIVES IN CHRIST

Much of the distrust and darkness can be traced and found in the fact that we often estimate ourselves by ourselves, according to the measure of a man instead of according to the measure of Christ. He is a true exponent of our standing before God. I John 1:18. As he is, so are we in this world.

He is not a mediator of one but of two. He not only represents God to us - the brightness of his glory and the expressed image of his person, but he represents us to God. We see God in Christ. God sees us in Christ. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. We, in Christ, are reconciled unto God.

Never can we pray, O God, look upon me - preserve my soul for I am holy.  
More and more we need to learn and to understand that our cry is one of faith.  
O God, look upon the face of thy anointed. Now this brings stability of our  
hope. Because our gaze is fixed upon that one blessed object, which God has  
fixed his gaze upon.

Christ's likeness is reflected in our own character, and experience. We  
can find little comfort in measuring by our own measurements. Our life, at best,  
is but a dim distorted mirror.

### III. REVEALS THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION

Rom. 8:1 - We are justified from all things and there is now no condemnation  
as applied to the believer has been established beyond the question of a doubt  
in the fullness of our pardon. The spiritually minded, Robert L. Summer, makes  
this statement about cancelled notes or no condemnation. He tells of a Doctor who  
died in Chicago, and left a will behind which completely wiped out all the unpaid  
fees owed by medical patients. Doctor William V. Gooder wrote, "Having practiced  
medicine and surgery for 45 years in Marengo, I hereby cancel and forgive all unpaid  
medical fees owed me by any and all former patients."

The attorney who filed the Doctor's will estimated that the unpaid bills totaled  
\$25,000. The Doctor, who died at 79, left an estimated \$100,000 estate.

As Summer's states, the good Doctor's actions completely and finally  
cancelled every one of the debts. No heir in the future can ever collect a single  
dime of the \$25,000. The once indebted ones are forever free from the obligations.

In a much grander and nobler sense of course, that is part of what happened on the cross of Calvary. There was a staggering debt of sin was cancelled once for all in behalf of each individual willing to accept him. And that is the way Paul expresses it - by him (Christ) taking and nailing it to the cross. What a thrilling thing that the payment is accepted for sin. And need never to be made again. That sin has been forgiven and never can and never will be demanded - two payments for one debt.

We cannot forget as God put the terms of salvation so high, that we could not of ourselves make them. So he put his tidal deed, our salvation so high that we cannot mar them, having hidden them with Christ in God.

Now in unbelief, we may try to tear up the copies of this covenant. But in Christ, as Paul says here, that he will keep the original in Heaven with himself. Your doubt and fear are no part of the covenant. Neither can they change Christ.

#### IV. REVEALS IN CHRIST OUR ONLY HOPE

Christ is the only reason of our acceptance. And he is a greater reason than our doubts or misgivings. If in Christ Jesus, we who sometimes were a far off or made nigh - would it not take something more than our distrust to remove him far again from him, to be aliens and strangers.

We feel like Moses at this point, we need to take off our shoes, for this is holy ground. For this is the grace of God and this tells us where we stand in Christ. 2 Tim. 2:13. If we believe not, yet he abideth faithfully. He

Now we have our temptations and we also have a sense of our personal unworthiness. But it is the righteousness of Christ upon us, by our union with him that brings this approval and blessedness.

The righteousness is (still in Christ) and not in us. Even when we are made partakers of it. Even as the wing and feathers still in the hen and the chickens are covered, kept, and warmed thereby. But they who put their trust under the shadow of his wing are covered, and kept, and warmed - is just what we are urging, Paul says.

You are so completely covered that the storm of a violated law cannot reach you. You are so kept that the wicked one cannot touch you. You are so kept that the death penalty of sin cannot come to you.

It is this fact that our righteousness is not our own, that makes it possible for us to glory in it.

As Paul said, Rom. 7:18, I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing.

I don't think there is anymore striking illustration of the total change of the place of relationship which the Scripture recognizes as having taken place in the believer than Paul uses in Rom. 7:5. It was Paul's bold way of dating back to the natural state as when we were in the flesh. To be in Christ is to be in the true one. And when we look back and we see the whole time passed of our lives lived in the flesh, now ended at the cross, and then it is risen in Christ. We have the power of this endless life.

Now we desired this love of God before but could not find assurance of it. We couldn't find it within us. That the love wherein thou hast loved me, may be in them, and I in them.

We sigh, we hunger and thirst after righteousness. God has done a better thing for us than we knew how to ask or to think. He has given us both the hunger and the satisfaction. He has given us the new nature, which is righteousness in the Lord.

The heirs in Adam longed to be free from sin. As the earth is earthly, and as the heavenly such as they that are heavenly.

Therefore the Christian who boasts should never boast of himself. But rather glory in the Lord.

#### V. REVEALS PRACTICAL HELP FOR DAILY LIVING

We might ask what should be the influence of these truths upon our daily life. How can we make use and how can we heed these wonderful things that are here in this text. How can we fulfill this righteousness in ourselves.

Now we ought to see what we have been excused from. And we should also see what we have pledged too. That we understand ourselves only in him.

Now this has to do with everyday life - the common things of life. The possibility of dealing with anything. To be the ideal person and life is impossible without Him.



Justification pledges a holy life on the part of him who receives it. Just as truly as eternal life has been given to him. And as he has been made accepted in the beloved. Rom. 8:29.

Faith in a position so much above our actual attained one - the common everyday duties of life is this practical.

Yet the common experience of Christians is that it is far more difficult to rise above the conflicts and the endeavors of practical service, by faith. Here is the assured justification in Christ. Then having so risen to descend again.

It is like the mount of transfiguration. It is never so far removed from the plain of daily duties that a few steps there are many people and within hearing - we can hear the cry of the evil spirit.

If it is real with us it means that we are going to be brought into deep fellowship with human suffering. The righteousness of Christ can never be worn as a mere outer garment.

The putting on of Christ, the Lord Jesus, will result. In us having more of that mind in us, which was also in him. It leads to humiliation, even to death, for the sake of the lost.

Phil. 1:8 - I count all things but lost that I may win Christ and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness.

God is my witness, how I long after you all in the tender heart of Jesus  
Christ

Here was the man praying that he might be able to enter into the needs and sorrows of all.

Remember that to be in union in Christ, is not only to be in union with his divine nature because he is the son of man, but he is the son of God, and he is to be in union with our inner nature. Sorrowing humanity. And if we have prayed for a heart baptized into a sense of all conditions, as Gal. 3:27-28, as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ is neither Jew nor Greek - bond nor free, male or female, but all are one in Jesus Christ.

This is the completeness in Christ and it does not beget indifference or selfishness in the believer's heart. Nor does it bring about pride.

For 1½ centuries serving New York City, 2 springs, but with it's growth the springs remain deep beneath the Criminal Court Building, and still give sweet water. However their flow is now deverted to sewers carrying it to the Hudson River. The springs that were once the source of life, have been all but forgotten and even diverted from their original use.

Now this story, which is true, is much like the fellowship some have with God in his house. Many remember when they drew from his fountain of love and mercy. But they have lost contact with him. They know in the back of their minds that he exists. That his mercy is somewhere available but they have quit drinking from the fountain. Christians today know that it is in Christ that their lives are complete and yet they have permitted a lot of things to divert them, from this source of sweet refreshment which can bring peace.

We might experiment with a bright light, which human science can produce. When projected on the disc of the sun, it is literally darkness in comparison.

In Christ, righteousness we discover the worthlessness of our own.

Now there is no fleeing away from the presence of the Lord on this account. But it is the profound sense of unfitness to be in his righteousness. But to come under his shelter and to let him live within. The Lord may give us many victories, he might lead us on up to improved perfections. But as Paul tried to lead these people to see that they were in Christ. And this was the key.

A very young Christian had grasp this truth. Have you heard of the little girl in Scotland - she applied for membership in a church. Appearing before a group of dignified elders, who questioned her about her faith - one of them asked, what are you trusting in for salvation? And the little girl replied, I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. That he died for my sins, and rose again for my justification.

The elder stroked his whiskers, and asked again. You have been saved through the blood of Christ. But does the temptor ever knock at your door.

The little girl with the look of assurance answered, yes, Satan knocks at my heart's door. But when he does, I say to Christ, he lives in me you know. Lord wilt thou open the door. And when he goes to the door and Satan sees him, he always says, pardon me but I knocked at the wrong door.)

This little girl knew the secret of this Scripture. She knew that being in Christ was the thing that brings the victory.

Now your standing will get beyond this great partition as the hymn writer styled it - the living and dying prayer for the holiest believer in the world.

Rock of ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in thee.

From our sins, from our unrighteousness, from our evil deeds. From the things that rebuke our conscience today. From all the wrong doings. You need to accept. But ye are in Christ Jesus - who is of God. He that glorieth - let him glory, in the Lord.

Pastor complimented one man on his faithfulness & determination.  
Man - 1st married, we were faithful, church regularly, religion vital part of lives.

1st Baby - dropped out.  
Easy drop child by 3.3.

one Sunday - "Daddy, don't you love Jesus any more?"

of course I do - what makes you ask that?

"you never go to ss with me, you drop me off & leave. I just decided you don't love him any more & it upset me."

My teacher said if we love Jesus, we will do what he

wants us to do,

I try to do what he wants me to do.

"Daddy, covered the boys hand - I thought I had a lot of things more impt. but I don't think I have. all be ready in a few minutes & we are going together & from now on we are going every Sunday."

The Boys Question days pretty deep - "Don't you love Jesus any more?"