

Sermon Outlines Standing and State

In the scriptures there are two aspects of salvation, God's part and our part. God's part is always perfect, ours is the goal we ought to strive for, and our present spiritual condition. God's part is referred to as "our standing". Our goal and present spiritual condition is referred to as "our state".

Standing is what God in grace has given us, or made us. It is what we are in Christ. It is always perfect because it is completely dependent on divine persons. Faith in Christ is that which gives us our standing. Faithfulness to Christ is that which affects our state.

The following is some of the distinctions between them.

Standing	State
• We are "accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6)	• We ought to long to be "accepted of Him" (2 Cor. 5:9)
• We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)	• If our works and motives are in fellowship with God we "shall be blessed in his deed" (Jam. 1:25)
• We are called "sons of God" (1 Jn. 3:1)	• We must seek to walk worthy of Him who has called us (1 Thess. 2:12)
• We are delivered from the "wrath to come" (1 Thess. 1:10)	• In life when there is severe persecution we may be delivered to death (2 Cor. 4:11)
• We were in a past eternity elected by God (1 Thess. 1:4)	• As we live in fellowship with God we assure our hearts that our election is made sure (2 Pet. 1:10)
• Graciously we have been forgiven by God (Eph. 1:7)	• Knowing the forgiveness of God we are to forgive like God (Eph. 4:32)
• We are saved by grace (Eph. 2:5)	• It is the desire of God that we keep growing in grace (2 Pet. 3:18)
• God has made us to be an Holy Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5)	• We are now obligated to be holy in all manner of living (1 Pet. 1:15)
• Our life is hid in Christ (Col. 3:3)	• Living the hidden life results in abiding in Christ (Jn. 15:4)
• We have been justified without works (Rom. 3:28)	• Being justified by faith we now show our justification by works (Jam. 2:24, 25)
• We are preserved in Christ (Jude 1:1)	• In this sinful scene we are to keep ourselves from idols (1 Jn. 5:21)
• We have been given eternal life (Jn. 10:28)	• We now must lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12)
• We are brought near by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13)	• We can now draw near in consecration through the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:22)
• We are ordained by God to eternal life (Acts 13:48)	• We are ordained by God to do good works (Eph. 2:10)
• We are redeemed by the Blood of the Lord (Rev. 5:9)	• Being redeemed by the Blood we are to be redeemed from all iniquity (Titus 2:14)
• God has sanctified us in Christ (1 Cor. 1:2)	• We must work with God to be sanctified wholly (1 Thess. 5:23)
• In the love of God we have received the unspeakable gift (2 Cor. 9:15)	• In the afflictions of life we can have unspeakable joy (1 Pet. 1:8)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**