

But the fact of it is still with us and if it were not for the grace of God we could not have been saved in the first place and could not be maintained in the second. Naturally we do not want to commit sin in the idea that grace will about...the Christian who knows grace has no desire to live in sin at all. But it is strengthening to know that we are saved by grace...although still in some measure marked by failure and sin. Our salvation is with God, our walk with man and there is often a contradiction between what we are and what we show. But if we can take this general picture for ourselves, we will be better enabled to think in terms of the believers' position and practice.

B. Discussion

1. Character of the Position of the Sinner Saved by Grace.

a. It is assigned to the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6, following 1:20, etc.) The fact of position is that the believer is already seen by the Lord as being in the heavenlies. He has this superior position by the grace of God. We must understand the completeness of this...there is nothing shaky or hesitant about it. It carries with it the wonders of grace and everlasting life. It is ours just as surely as the Holy Spirit has come as the earnest of new life. The position one now holds is that of being with Christ in newness of life. If the salvation claimed is real, this cannot be overlooked as the solid basis of the life in which we stand.

b. A position of peace... (Eph. 2:14, 17) The fact is that we do have peace with God as noted in Romans 5:1 etc. The hostility is over. We do not have to be apprehensive about the standing of our souls or about the coming meeting with the Lord. In this peace death will eventually be a door through which we pass. And this is true in spite of our present weakness and frailty because, in a wonderful