

Our Standing In Jesus Is Made Legal!-gm

By B. D. Tate

It is important for us to see our new position in salvation **that God made it legal!** When we understand that our relationship to Him, and our prayer life with Him **is based on legal grounds**, it will change us!

We will no longer accept *the old ground* we were standing on! God, in His mercy, did not want us to receive what we deserved. He did not want us to reap what we sowed. He did not want us to be forever caught in a cycle of destruction and death. God made a way for us to escape the curse and the fall. God **has translated us** from the kingdom of darkness, to the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13), **and it's legal!**

This is not pity, or God overlooking the truth. It is rock solid and eternal—He made it legal. When God justifies the unrighteous by condemning the righteous One, it is a legal exchange in divine proportions.

Heb 7:27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, **for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**

God is our ultimate judge, and is just in declaring all have sinned according to the Law of Moses, as this scripture declares:

Ro 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**

We know God is Holy, and stands just in condemning sinners of their sins; however, God is just as **holy** when He declares us righteous, through the gift of righteousness in Christ!

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, **these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

33 **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.**

34 Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

God is not fudging, or playing some kind of trick to manipulate the outcome for us. He is not forsaking the truth in order to bring sinners into His kingdom. He has poured out His wrath, and satisfied His Holiness, by condemning sin in the cross through the blood of Jesus. God has justified our acceptance through the rejection, suffering, and death of Jesus. "It is Christ who died!"

That is the meaning of this passage as well:

Col. 2: 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

14 **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

This is a legal action! This makes us legally His when we come to Christ. We are justified legally by the court of heaven.

What Is The Significance Of Our Relationship Being Made Legal?

When something is made legal it is made the law of the land. It is decided, passed, and then employed. The Law of the land is enforced by police, and has the authority to govern.

We've talked about our Christian walk in terms of authority. We've talked about it in terms of a superior relationship, as in being a son or daughter of God. We've talked about our standing in Jesus as His bride, His ambassador, and His minister of reconciliation. We talked about our position in Christ being under grace, not law. We've talked about being new creations, and dead to sin. **All of these teachings from the scriptures are for us to understand what God has done, so that we will act upon it with confidence.**

Another just as powerful way to comprehend our place, and position in the new birth, is grasping how it is **that it is made legal.**

Legal means it is established, fixed, and rules eternally. It means is it public, known, open and already decided by the lawmaker and the highest authority. We stand on legal grounds when we stand upon our salvation! Jesus is our advocate!

1Jo 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father,** Jesus Christ the righteous.

An advocate represents us in legal matters. Jesus intercedes for us before the Father, through His life and His righteousness born into us when we accepted Him.

Rom. 5: 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, **much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came to all men*, resulting in condemnation, **even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, **so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**

This is a legal argument presented on our behalf, and for our benefit. This is a legal arrangement that continues *forever*, through the life and mediation of the Messiah, for His people (Heb. 7:25).

If We Understand Legal Authority Our Faith Will Soar With Confidence In His Grace Given To Us As **Legal Heirs!**

A New Prayer Life!

Consider that many Christians do not recognize, nor understand what this means, when it comes to prayer. Prayer is our relationship and conversation with God. It is also our means of expression and authority in Jesus' name. Prayer is our connection to spiritual truth, and bringing it to bear over against the facts of this fallen realm. All this is to say that prayer is based on legal grounds now, rather than mercy or pity.

What happens when we understand that we have legal rights in prayer? It means that we stand in the position of righteousness, and authority in it. **As a citizen of the kingdom, we have legal rights!** Since we are one with the owner, and have taken on His name, we have legal rights. We have legal freedoms, privileges, and opportunities. These rights come to us through the highest authority of life itself.

When someone infringes upon our legal rights, we have recourse and the divine power backs it up! When we come before the judge of all that lives, standing upon legal grounds, we have His ear. We have His favor, because as the righteous judge, He is going to rule according to ***legal statutes—His Word!***

1Jo 5:14 **Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

1Jo 5:15 **And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

When we offer prayer to God standing on legal grounds, we come not to find out *what is legal*, but to have it enforced. This is a huge difference from coming to God based upon *mercy or pity*.

If our relationship to God is based on mercy and pity, then we have *no legal grounds* to support us. We are coming knowing that we have no rights, no privileges, and the case against us means we are without strength to overcome it. Our needs are not legally enforced; it is as if we are *illegal aliens* coming to God.

As Illegal aliens without representation, we are without a hope of obtaining our requests—we cannot know. **If we cannot know, then we cannot operate in faith, because faith knows!** Faith is never mentioned in the Old Testament because it could not be applied. It did not apply because we could not stand in righteousness and truth. We could not stand on legal grounds asserting that which has been established in Jesus.

Faith is the substance (the title deed) of things hoped for; the evidence (legal grounds) of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). It is because we are citizens of heaven; we are sons and daughters based upon truth and justice, now we can operate in faith!

If we come solely before God asking for mercy, this is like an offender who has been arrested, prosecuted, and found guilty realizing he has no escape. His only recourse is to throw himself at the mercy of the court. If our prayer life is based upon *sin consciousness* and always throwing ourselves at the mercy of the court—that is God, then our prayer life will always be weak.

A judge may consider a first time offender worthy of giving mercy or pity to; however, if this same offender comes again and again, a righteous judgment will be declared. If we stay in our sin consciousness, our standing before God will always be weak. **Who would dare stand in grace knowing that our sins are constantly before Him?**

What if this person comes again before the same court, and judge, having committed the same offense or something more egregious? How many times will a judge give leniency? Often our prayer life is based upon a ***sin consciousness*** that knows we have sinned and sinned again. How can God grant our requests? We are not worthy; especially, if we are repeat offenders. Our prayer life, in this constant state of seeking mercy and pity from God to answer our needs, will be weak at best. We will have no confidence that God will hear us, or keep granting us mercy.

Are we illegal aliens? Under the law, we were. We were regarded as sinners condemned by righteous judgment standing guilty always. We were servants, slaves, and even prisoners held by the law for condemnation. What standing did we have before God? We stood as outcasts, alienated, and separated from the benefits of the kingdom of God.

Our prayers, as illegal aliens, were prayers of hope, desperation, pleading, begging, and crying out ***for help***. ***This is*** because we knew we didn't deserve, or had any rights to it.

The SyroPhoenician Woman

Matthew 15: 21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of **Tyre and Sidon**.

22 And behold, **a woman of Canaan** came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "**Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.**"

23 **But He answered her not a word**. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "**I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "**Lord, help me!**"

26 But He answered and said, "**It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.**"

27 And she said, "**Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**"

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "**O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.**" And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

29 **Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.**

In this account, we have Jesus leaving the territory of Israel to enter Tyre and Sidon. These were towns of the gentiles. A woman of Canaan (not a Jew), came to Jesus seeking help for her daughter who was demon possessed. She cried out for mercy asking Jesus to deliver her daughter. Jesus didn't respond at first, and then said, "I was not sent (to the gentiles) except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." In other words, she had no legal rights to the Abrahamic covenant. She had no standing, and no authority, to request anything from Jesus—she was an illegal alien of sorts. She could only ask for mercy! She could only ask for pity.

She responded by saying, "Yes, Lord (you are right I'm not a Jew), yet even the little dogs eat from **the crumbs** which fall from their masters' table." How remarkable it is that she would persist with Jesus after He had rebuffed her on legal grounds. Jesus was legally right to ignore her, she was not a covenant woman; however, we see the true compassion and nature of God by His opening words to her: "**O woman...**"

I hear Jesus saying to her, "O woman, well done; you have touched my heart...you kept coming. You have seen past the legalities to find my heart. Your response to who I really am...that you believed I would answer you, regardless of the legal issues, has pleased me...you have shown great faith towards Me...of course you have your petition!"

What is faith, but that we know who God really is, and stand in trust on what He has said? Faith is very personal to God, because it is our personal response to His initiative in our life by His word.

This woman had no legal right, but she appealed to Jesus based on some crumbs that fall to the dogs from their master's table. She recognized she was a dog in relationship to God's covenant. Many today feel that they are still dogs in relationship to God. Their salvation is like

a crumb from the master's table. They see themselves as second class citizens at best; as if they were still aliens in God's kingdom.

We have the same subclass in our country today where illegal aliens enjoy many of the benefits of legal citizenship. They remain a quiet, out of sight populace, and have very little standing in our courts. When they come to ask for anything, they cannot come declaring their rights.

When we became born again through Jesus all of this changed. We are sons and daughters of the Most High God! We have been legally adopted into the family whereby we cry out "Abba, Father!" We are no longer alienated from His love, His compassion, His peace, and rest. **We are full citizens of heaven, and have every right that Jesus has before the throne of grace.**

We were under condemnation and stood to be judged; however, now we have passed from judgment into His glory. We stand before God completely and utterly cleansed from all of our sins, past, present, and future. We have no guilt before the throne of grace, because the blood of Jesus paid it all! **We have been cleansed from sin consciousness to Christ consciousness.**

In the old situation, we needed to ask for mercy, pity, and help. Under grace and the legally established new covenant, we passed from aliens to sons. As sons and daughters, we have legal right to everything Jesus provided. **We stand as Jesus stands before the Father, no less, no more (I John 4:17)!**

When We Pray Now Our Prayers Are Different!

When we come to God's throne, we don't come asking, knocking, seeking, we come to acknowledge, assert, and recognize what we have been given, received, and provided in Jesus. **We don't come to beg, we come to declare.** We don't come to plead, we come to stand. We don't come to ask for mercy or pity, we are made righteous, and come by the name of Jesus. **We come as accepted, beloved, and blessed!**

Our prayers have changed from directing *them towards God*, to directing them in proclamation *towards the fallen facts of this realm*. We don't ask of God, we command of this world. When we pray, we are communing with God *to grasp with confidence*, our right standing in His legal position and power. We pray to understand and receive revelation of who Christ is in us, and our authority to exercise His will be done. We have the legal right to stand on legal grounds with God, over against all the power of the enemy, the curse, and this fallen world.

We don't petition God anymore because we are not servants, slaves, or prisoners of sin anymore. We take the legal grounds of the new covenant and pray, declare, command, and speak God's will to come to pass. Legal grounds are already established, written, posted, and enforce.

Legal grounds may be infringed upon by sin, the curse, sinners, and the enemy, but we have the authority and power of God to reestablish and bring the truth to manifestation (Luke 10:19)—we have faith that overcomes the world (I John 5:4)!

When we were sinners without Jesus, we petitioned God for help. We may even have needed many to stand with us in hopes that God would not refuse our numbers. We came like the woman to the unjust judge:

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, **that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,**

2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, **'Get justice for me from my adversary.'**

4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

5 **'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'**"

6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.

7 **"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"**

8 **"I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Under the Old Covenant, we had no standing before God, and all of our prayers were petitions based in mercy and pity. Like the woman coming before the unjust judge, we have continued to come before God as if our whole standing before Him is still based on mercy and pity. We have taken this parable that Jesus taught while under the Old covenant and law, and apply it to new covenant people. Is God unjust? Must we continue to come before God so that by our continual coming, He will feel compelled to answer our petitions? All of this is wrong if we understand the finished work of the cross. Before the cross, we needed God to move; after the cross, God has already moved! He has answered our every need, and it is Jesus in us! Jesus is our authority to take the power of God and answer every need.

Under grace, we are translated into the kingdom of His dear son (Col. 1:13). We have legal standing and God given rights, based in His gift of righteousness to us in Jesus (Rom. 5:17). We pray from the position of power, blessing, and the finished work of Christ. All of our petitions now are the acknowledging and asserting of the help we've been given in Him:

2Co 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time **I have heard you**,
And in the day of salvation **I have helped you.**" Behold, now is
the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

When we pray from the position of having been helped, we are open to the truth and the revelation of Jesus to us. This legal position puts us in the know. We know God's will; we know God's word. We know the Holy Spirit has been given to us, and we know that we have the right to use the name of Jesus! All of this is based not on mercy and pity, but having been born again into the kingdom of God. It is based on His grace!

We respond to His grace by faith and this faith produces in us rest, peace, and knowing deep within. Our legal position is far more advantageous than the old position of being under the law and under

condemnation. We are now sons and daughters of the Most High, and given the privilege of being joint heirs with Christ.

Therefore, understand that a slave, servant, or prisoner mentality before God, is really standing in unbelief! We are no longer illegal aliens before our God! We have legal position and authority given to us through being born again. The cost of this miraculous translation is the blood of Jesus. When God saved us, it also transformed us! Stand in the liberty by which Christ has set us free! We are justified and made righteous in Christ, and it is based on legal grounds! Amen.

