

EFCA Doctrinal Statement 4 part 5

6/4/18

Because of the topic for this week, I have been thinking a bunch about Jesus being seated in the heavenlies. The book of Hebrews explains the significance of Jesus being our perfect and permanent High Priest. He sits at the right hand of God the Father and is as our High Priest and Advocate. Jesus is not “just” our Savior in the sense that he died some time in the past. He is still our Savior and continues to work on our behalf. That is why the writer to Hebrews writes that Jesus is able to save to the uttermost. (**Hebrews 7: 23-28**). Jesus is the perfect High Priest because He is a priest forever. He is perfect in character, perfect in obedience, made the perfect sacrifice, and is our perfect advocate.

Jesus now sits as both the judge and the judged. When Satan accuses us (**Revelation 12:10**), Jesus responds as the one who made the perfect sacrifice. Jesus has the right and authority to declare righteous those who are in Him. Because He became like us, made the perfect and eternal sacrifice, there is now absolutely NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus. I’m not sure we totally grasp that and live in the reality of that truth. I am reminded of the Getty’s Song, “In Christ Alone” . It says “No guilt in life, no fear of death.” Christ has paid the price for our sin, and He rose and is ever seated at the right hand of the Father so there is no fear in death.

However, it is dangerous to think of Christ as only seated in the heavenlies. Jesus is ever with us as well. There are two great statements that bracket the great commission in **Matthew 28**. The first is that all power and authority are given to Christ. The second is that He will be with us wherever we go. Those two truths are basis of the commission. God’s calling on our lives is sustained by His presence in our lives. He is ever with us.

Even that is not the entire story. We are seated with Him in the heavenlies as well! (**Colossians 3:1-3**) We have been raised with Christ. Our identity is in Him. Our lives are hidden in His life, if indeed we are His. We have a Great High Priest and advocate, and in Him we actually “have a presence” in the throne room of heaven. It is mind boggling and should indeed be life changing.

Hebrews 4:8-10 are verses that are often quoted, but again, I don’t think that I appreciate or appropriate them enough. We can come to the Almighty and Powerful God of the universe with confidence and find mercy and grace to help in whatever we are going through. What an amazing salvation that we have been given!

Questions to consider:

1. What is most significant to you about Jesus being seated at the right hand of God the Father?

