

The Believer's **TWO LOCATIONS**

John 16:23-33

According to our Lord's teaching in John 16:33, the believer has two locations or two realms in which he lives:

1) The believer is located in Christ: "These things have I spoken unto you, that **in Me** ye might have peace." The moment we were saved we were placed into Jesus Christ (*Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27*), with the result that we have a glorious position as "new creatures" **in Christ** (*2 Cor. 5:21*). **In Christ** we not only have peace, but we also have eternal life (*Rom. 6:23*), complete forgiveness (*Eph. 1:7*), no condemnation (*Rom. 8:1*), constant victory (*2 Cor. 2:14*), and countless other spiritual blessings (*Eph. 1:3*).

2) The believer is located in the world: "**In the world** ye shall have tribulation (trouble, pressure, affliction)." We are located "in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation (generation)," living here that we might be bright lights in the darkness (*Phil. 2:15*). We are in this world, but not of this world; our Lord did not pray that we would be taken out of this world, but that we would be kept from the evil one (*John 17:14-16*). This wicked world is not our home; rather we are pilgrims and strangers passing through on our way to our true home (*Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11*). In our daily walk we are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world (*James 1:27; 1 John 2:15-17*). We can be with sinners to be a testimony among them, while at the same time being separate from sinners by not partaking in their evil ways (*Luke 5:30-31; 15:1-2; Heb. 7:26; 1 Cor. 5:10*). In this world we should expect tribulation, suffering and persecution (*John 15:18-20; 1 John 3:13; 1 Thess. 3:3; Acts 14:22*), "**but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**" (*John 16:33*).

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (*Rom. 8:37*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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