

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 12

Discipleship Hour, 9/25/2020

Colossians 2:9-15 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 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, 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. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; In Him the full unbounded powers and attributes took up bodily residence. God's full expression of self is here in a fixed abode. Christ is not simply imbued with God-like quality and characteristics, but He is fully God.

1. The heresy was partially this – the aeons (the hierarchy of angels) made up the “pleroma” or fullness of God. No – the “pleroma” is in Christ. No one – not the pastor, not the miracle worker – not the saints present and not the saints past – can get you to God because the whole fullness is all in one place with no competition and no helpers: **1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

2. The Gnostics went to asceticism A) the body is evil so beat it; or to lasciviousness B) the body is of no value so don't bother trying to train it. No, Jesus' body housed all of the divine fullness – God became incarnate = He didn't simply. 2:9-10 was a refutation of the theological heresy at Colossae. v.13 - you were dead = cessation of communication with the environment. Paul reminds them they were uncircumcised = in addition to being dead, they were without the privilege of a covenant (of which circumcision was the seal). Now, they have the covenant of which circumcision is no longer the seal, but baptism is.

The truth put negatively **Colossians 2:14-15** 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. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. V.14 the “bond” or “handwriting” (Gk. cheirographon) was a social custom. It was basically an I.O.U. to the person you owed. In this case it was the handwriting of requirements (LAW) that stood against us as an I.O.U.; always and for perpetuity witnessing the eventual calling in of the debt. This debt belonged universally to all men because no one can keep the law. It is holy, just and good, but nevertheless it is not designed to make men good, but to show: **Romans 3:19-20** 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. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Then, once shown, to offer grace, a mediator, the free gift of righteousness: **Romans 3:21-26** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ^{for} all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

The law brings condemnation, not salvation. Thus, it is the law of sin and death. But, thanks be to God, Jesus cancelled it and set it aside, nailing it to the cross.

1. **2 Corinthians 2:14** Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place
2. He paraded them as absolute conqueror of the now absolutely subject powers
3. This leads to v.15. Jesus' triumph was in the cross and specifically, “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” = He spoiled them in total and absolute victory
4. Nailed on a cross was an inscription of the criminal's misdeeds. This was the handwriting “Against us, which was contrary to us.” = v.13, “dead in your trespasses” but now forgiveness comes as Jesus erases your name and puts in His

5. **Colossians 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
6. Baptism doesn't save you – faith in the working of God does – which gives you heart circumcision which is inner – but the outward seal is baptism (in water)
7. **Romans 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved
8. Where in NT does it say you must believe that God raised him from the dead?
9. In baptism you were buried and raised with him – does vs. 12 say baptism did this? No, it says, “through faith in the working of God?”
10. Notice, v.11 was inward and v.12 is outward. God's seat of operation is never outside a man, but always in the heart: I ask then, does baptism lead to circumcision of the heart or vice versa?
11. **Colossians 2:12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead
12. **Philippians 3:3** For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh
13. Again of v.11, the true circumcision is already over for those who
14. You did this in Christ who offers all that the OT rite prefigured (Gal.5:6). Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love
15. **Galatians 5:12** I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!
16. V.11 says you put off the body of flesh (i.e., The Jews give up a few centimeters. You went for it!)

17. **Colossians 2:11** In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ
18. Ceremonies are shadows of reality
19. **Romans 2:28-29** For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision is *that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God
20. **Galatians 5:6-9** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump
21. The Judaizing cry, "Circumcise the Gentiles" is heard in Colossae but Paul says, "No – it's not outward; it's inward and it's over"
22. **Colossians 2:9-13** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 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, 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. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it
23. 2:11-13 is a refutation of the ceremonial error of the heretics
24. 2:9-13 is the truth expressed positively
25. You have fullness of life in him because he rules all rule. He holds authority over all authority. Christ in you, the hope of glory! Christ in you, preeminent in all! Christ in you, the Fullness of divinity... in you!
26. **Ephesians 3:10** to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*

27. **Ephesians 1:21-22** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church
28. **Colossians 2:15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it
29. 1:18 = head of church – by relationship in redemption. In 2:10 = head of all authority – by conquest! You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power
30. **Colossians 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence
31. The Godhead still dwells bodily today
32. V.10 “you have come to fullness of life in him.” In the fullness of Christ the Christian is filled! The fullness of God is also the fullness of men
33. **Colossians 2:10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power
34. **Colossians 1:20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross
35. Remember, it was the blood of the cross which purchased your forgiveness of sins and reconciled you
36. **1 Peter 2:24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed
37. Go into a body; He became flesh and blood... to be bruised for your healing