



Colossians 2, Lesson #7

Gerald Cumby, Teacher

As Christians, we walk, but we are also rooted, and we are also built up. The metaphors are somewhat mixed, but the message is clear: be established on the solid rock...and keep growing.

The WARNING from Paul:

- *The false teaching among the Colossians was marked by an emphasis on philosophy and empty deceit.*
- *Most of all, it was according to the tradition of men. It had the stamp of man on it, not God.*
- *Paul here warned that the tradition of men has no equal authority to the Word of God.*
- *Most people live under the idea that "we get what we deserve...when we are good, we deserve to receive good; when we are bad, we deserve to receive bad." This is heresy and against the Word of God!*
- *Paul warned the Colossians to not subject themselves to this grace-eliminating kind of thinking, and to consider themselves dead to the vain philosophies and empty deceitful teachings.*

Colossians 2:11-12, "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."

The Colossian Christians had to deal with a variety of false teaching (the church was in the infancy stage...and the wolves were out to get the new

converts and those who were not getting the training and the teaching from the mature and anointed preachers/teachers).

- ✓ *Not only did the church have wrong ideas about Jesus, but they also had wrong ideas about things like circumcision.*
- ✓ *Evidently they were being taught that they had to be circumcised to be right with God.*

The subject matter to be emphasized:

In Him you were also circumcised:

- Most of the Christians in Colossae were Gentiles who had never been physically circumcised.
- ✓ Paul wanted to emphasize that they **were** definitely circumcised in a spiritual sense, which is even more important than physical circumcision.
- ✓ Paul is making it clear that they *were* spiritually circumcised **by putting off the sins of the flesh.** (Our spiritual circumcision meant the **putting off** of the old man)
- ✓ Being saved/Becoming a Christian/Born Again/Conversion = the inward circumcision of the heart...*2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new,” NKJV.*

Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God:

- **Baptism illustrates our identification with the death and resurrection life of Jesus.** (We were **buried** with Jesus...and **buried** under the water. We are also **raised with Him**...and raised up out of the water).
Romans 10:9-10, “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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation. (NKJV).
- It is as if Paul wrote: **“Circumcision is not important; what is important is the spiritual cutting away of the flesh that Jesus performs in the life of every believer.”**
- **If you want a ceremony to mark this spiritual transformation in your life, look to your baptism and not to circumcision.**

Through faith in the working of God

- ✓ This demonstrates that Paul understood that the power of regeneration was not in baptism or received by the act of baptism, but received through faith in the working of God.
- ✓ (By faith, not of works lest any man might boast). No works of man...but works of God (ONLY GOD CAN BRING ABOUT THE POWER TO REGENERATE A HEART).

Colossians 2:13-15, “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.”

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh:

- ✓ Before we have new life in Jesus, we are dead **in our trespasses**.
- ✓ Trespassing is “overstepping a boundary.” We are dead because we overstep God’s boundaries in our sin and rebellion.

He has made alive together with Him:

- ✓ We can’t make ourselves alive, but God can make us **alive together with** Jesus.
- ✓ The new birth (**made alive**) and cleansing (**forgiven you all**) go together as features of the New Covenant.
- ✓ We are forgiven by grace.

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us:

- The **handwriting of requirements** has in mind a list of our crimes or moral debt before God. This debt cannot be completely paid for by an imperfect person.
- BUT...it can be **taken away** by payment from the perfect man...Jesus Christ.

Having nailed it to the cross:

- Jesus not only *paid* for the writing that was against us; He also took **it out of the way**...and then **nailed it to the cross**.
- He made certain that the **handwriting of requirements that was against us** could no longer accuse us.

Having disarmed principalities and powers:

- Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” In other words, that if the

rulers of this age – by which he meant both the spiritual powers of darkness and their earthly representatives – had known what would happen on the cross, they would have never crucified Jesus ([1 Corinthians 2:8](#)). ***They were defeating themselves and they didn't even know it.***

- Jesus' work on the cross **disarmed principalities and powers**. These ranks of hostile angelic beings ([Romans 8:38](#), [Ephesians 1:21](#), [Ephesians 3:10](#), [Ephesians 6:12](#)) don't have the same weapons to use against Christians that they have against those who are not in Jesus.
- What weapons do demonic spirits now have against the believer?
 - ✓ They are **disarmed**, except for their ability to *deceive* and to create *fear*.
 - ✓ Demonic spirits only have power towards us that we grant them by believing their lies. The weapons are in *our* hands, not *theirs*.
 - ✓ We will one-day see how afraid they were of *us*.

Triumphing over them:

- Christ, in this picture, is the conquering general;
- The powers and authorities are the defeated enemy displayed as the spoils of battle before the entire universe.

The death of Christ was not only a pardon and a canceled debt; it was a glorious triumph.

He Paid A Debt

**He paid a debt He did not owe. I owe a debt I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sins away.**

**And now I sing a brand new song...Amazing grace all day long.
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.**

Rise Up O Men of God, Song by Phil Keaggy

**Rise up O men of God...Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and soul and mind and strength,
To serve the King of Kings...To serve the King of Kings.**