

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 8 – Colossians 2:8-15

Liberated in Jesus Christ (Family Worship)

Purpose: God's people will reject the captivity of man made systems of living to enjoy living liberated in Jesus Christ!

Call to Worship (Stand)

Read

Colossians 2:8-15 ESV

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10** and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. **11** In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Prayer

Thanksgiving for Christ who set us free and helps us not live by anything that is not from Jesus Christ

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

One Man Two Lives

There was a man who had been set free from the prison of man's traditions and religion. He had been justified by Jesus Christ and was living according to the freedom of obedience. He enjoyed that freedom, taught about that freedom, and modeled that freedom. Then one day, people from his old way of life paid him a visit and something happened. He was not confident in the freedom in Christ and

quickly reverted to human regulations. He did not associate with certain people and some of the other “freed men” did the same. Peter was not confident in the freedom Christ had given him, and he responded in fear for what the “religious people” would say.

Paul confronted Peter and the other Christians about their hypocrisy in trying to please people and not living in the freedom of Christ (**Galatians 2:11-16**). Peter and the others knew that following the Ceremonial laws would not justify them before God. They knew that it is Only by faith given by grace believing that Jesus Christ alone justifies would justify them with God. Yet, they turned back to captivity in man’s ways and lived like they were hopelessly trying to achieve justification by works.

God set’s His people free in Christ and yet they can be persuaded to take up the old life and live in the captivity of man’s works. Paul continues writing to the Colossian saints to reject man’s captivity and live life liberated in Jesus Christ! Let’s continue studying this letter asking God to help us live Liberated in Jesus Christ!

Reminder (SLIDE 2)

We Need God’s Help

Be A Catalyst for Worship

God Makes Us Worthy to Walk

We Live to Show Christ is 1st Over All

We Will Live as Reconciled People

We Will Make Christ Known

We Will Live as “Connected In” People

Read

Colossians 2:8-15 ESV

(SLIDE 3) **8** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10** and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. **11** In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

(SLIDE 4) **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Series Slide (SLIDE 5)

Notes on Colossians 2:8-15

Defense Against the Empty Things (v. 8)

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Paul's stated in verse 4 that his struggle was to disciple people in such a way that they would not be deluded or deceived by plausible arguments. Teachings and ideas that are formed in partial truths or sound true, but in reality, are lies. Now, Paul writes a directive to the saints. They have the treasure of Jesus Christ and therefore they are to make effort to see things that are not rooted in Jesus Christ and are not from the Holy Spirit and reject those things. Paul lists the things that easily deceive people. Those things include philosophy or empty deceit or trickery that is rooted in human traditions or elemental principles. The thing that these deceptive things have in common is that their source is found in human ability and thought. The saint is bombarded by human things and Godly things. Human things will try to disguise themselves as Godly things, but they will always be exposed as things that are fake, weak, and empty. With Christ First Over All of the saint, the saint has what they need to see to it that they are not duped by lies and deception.

The Saint Is Given Christ – Fullness and Richness (v. 9-10)

9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Jesus Christ is the depository and treasure chest of truth. The truth in Jesus Christ is most precious to the saint. Jesus is priceless treasure, not because He is a good teacher, but because he is God. Jesus isn't a part-time God. Jesus doesn't have Godly epiphanies. Jesus doesn't hear a prophecy or word from God at moments. Jesus doesn't perform miracles at only certain times. Paul writes that Jesus does the things that the anointed one of God does because Jesus is Fully God. Jesus Christ isn't a spirit, but He is fully God who dwells in the body of a man. Jesus Christ is Fully God and is the manifestation of the True Man. Jesus Christ is First Over All; the Creator of all creation and the Savior of all He created. When a person is given faith to repent and believe, they are completed in Him, that is to say that they are made complete in Him. They are in Christ and are given the benefits of all riches and fullness of Jesus Christ.

God Makes the Saint Good (v. 11)

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

This section of the letter reveals three things. First, we gain insight into the "plausible arguments" that concern Paul as "deluding" the saints in Colossae. It is likely that some Jews live in dispersion and have settled in Colossae. They have brought their culture and customs with them to their new home. Some of those Jews have become believers in Jesus Christ. There may have been a contingency of Jews in the city and within the church community who adopted belief in Jesus for salvation, but taught

that non-Jews to follow Jewish philosophy, customs, and teachings to be saved by God. They would have taught about circumcision. These Judaizers (**Galatians 2:14**) would have added requirements for the Gentiles to achieve salvation. This is the debate at the church council in Jerusalem in Acts 15. Paul and Barnabas give evidence that God is saving Gentiles and giving them the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas argue that salvation has one requirement, faith in Jesus Christ alone. Therefore, circumcision was not required for a person to be justified by God. Circumcision has its place in history, culture, and tradition, but not in salvation. The council heard the evidence from both sides, for and against required circumcision, and decided that no Christian was required to be circumcised. So, it appears that there are Jewish Christians who are teaching that salvation is in Christ with physical circumcision. Paul is teaching them that Christ is the only way of salvation and peace with God.

Second, Paul reveals that what Christ does in justifying a person is to do a work on them. God removes the dead heart (in whole or in part – the dead part is taken away and what remains is new) and gives the once dead person new life. This is a spiritual work within the person. God removes the dead sinful parts and gives/reveals the new living parts. This isn't a physical work, but a spiritual one. Jesus Christ is the one who cuts away the old dead and sinful parts of the heart to cause new life.

Third, the “circumcision” of the heart is not something that is happening with hope that it will be completed. It is something that has happened. It is complete. The cutting away of the old dead things to give life isn't a hopeful action. It is fully accomplished! Being justified by faith in Christ alone isn't something that was added to your life. All other things like culture, traditions, ceremonies, rituals, observances, and lineage are of no value to the Christian for salvation. In receiving faith from God to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead to live eternally, is evidence of faith. All other things are removed and have no value. Salvation that brings peace with God by His grace is through faith in Christ alone! Christ is First Over All to save!

The Blessing of Being Buried and Raised (v. 12)

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Paul reveals that baptism shows that a great work is done in those who believe. It isn't that baptism does this work, but it reveals what has been done. The Christian doesn't do this work upon themselves, but Jesus Christ is responsible for this work. Baptism is a symbolic action of what God has done and what God is doing. The language Paul uses to describe baptism shows that there is a work to bring the once dead person into Christ. Baptism shows that the once dead person is buried. This burial is not simply laying the person in a grave, but it shows them being united in Christ. It is Christ who has died and the dead person is given faith, and their old self is dead and they are in Christ. They are buried with Christ to show God's work to get rid of the old dead person. The work didn't stop with death, but continues in bringing new life, so baptism doesn't stop with burying the old person with Christ. The next part is the act of bringing the believer out of the water to show that work that God has done. Just

as Jesus Christ died and was laid in a tomb, three days later Jesus Christ rose from the dead to live again. As the saint being baptized is brought up out of the water it shows that they are being raised with Christ as a new person to live and walk in the new life they have received. It is in Christ that the saint is blessed being buried in Christ and raised in Him too.

The Record of Wrongs is Killed (v. 13-14)

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Paul continuing to reveal the work of baptism shows what Jesus Christ has done. Again, it isn't that baptism does this work, but it shows what Christ has done in the saint. God forgives completely. The saint doesn't have to continue trying to earn forgiveness for dead-life sin – the life of the unclean person. Paul reminds the saints again that they were once dead people who sinned, earned death, and were contaminated by death. Paul reminds them of this truth again, not to shame them or guilt them, but to show God's great, loving, and effective work to save the saint. People who were once dead are now alive in Him and with Him. Jesus is alive and gives His people life! Life in the saint thrives because Jesus Christ's work to make alive is complete. Paul writes that being made alive in Jesus Christ and with Him is evidence that all of the violations (trespasses) we committed have been forgiven. Paul writes to show the extent of forgiveness. Paul shows that there was a record against the person. This record was an account of all the offenses that the person committed. This is every value, desire, thought, and act that was offensive to God. All of them. The record of offenses isn't recorded by the wicked unsaved person, but it is a record compiled by God. Nothing that He calls offensive and a trespass has been omitted. It is the proof and evidence of why the person should receive death and eternal separation and punishment. Paul writes that it is the "record of debt". Payment to cancel the debt is required. Death is the required payment and God being just and perfect must act. Paul writes that God does. Being just and loving, God calls the debt to be paid and paid in full. This isn't a spiritual layaway or periodical payment system. The debt is called and must be paid in full! Death is the only payment that will satisfy the debt. If the person who created the "record of debt" pays it in their death, they will be eternally separated from God and suffer eternally in Hell. That is the punishment every person has earned due to their sin. God offers a solution! God, being just, cannot overlook the record and not follow through with the required action. That would be unjust. God provided a substitution. Jesus Christ, who never created a "record of debt", being perfect and having never sinned (Hebrews 4:15) took on the "record of debt" for those whom God chose and Paul writes that God canceled the "record of debt" and all of the legal requirements through the death of Jesus. Paul writes that God canceled the debt record by nailing the record to the cross. The debt has been forgiven and the person who once was dead and indebted to God is now forgiven for all the debts, trespasses, and offenses they have committed and repenting they have been forgiven! The record of wrongs is eliminated!

Jesus Christ, The Victor (v. 15)

15 He (God) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Jesus Christ).

Paul writes that God was making it known that any rulers and authorities that people looked to that was not Jesus Christ were powerless. God took away any weapons or armaments that they had created for themselves or had been given by people. This was always the truth, but it appeared that there were other rulers or authorities that people thought were equal to or even superior to God. God showed that He was the only true ruler and authority. He did this openly and publicly. God did this in such a way as to bring shame upon subordinate rulers and authorities. The way He did this was taking what these rulers and authorities thought was victory and showing that it was their defeat. God is victorious through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. God's people celebrate in this victory and have eternal hope in Jesus Christ.

Ruler (Greek word - arché – meaning beginning, ruler, first cause) and Authorities (Greek word - exousia – meaning authority to rule, jurisdiction, symbol of authority) are those who tried to be First Over All, but were insufficient and lacked the authority and right to do so.

Those who were allowed to rule as part of God's system of rule were shown to not have independent authority nor did they have the power to rule perfectly. God disgraced them publicly through Jesus Christ exercising His authority over all created things. Things and people who were not first over all tried to be first and were humiliated. Jesus Christ is 1st Over All!

God's People Have Life in Jesus Christ Alone (SLIDE 6)

(SLIDE 7) Free Life - Life in the Truth of Christ (not captive to human philosophies, deceit, traditions)

(SLIDE 8) Full and Rich Life - Life Abundant – Fullness and Richness of Christ

(SLIDE 9) Good Life - Life in the Goodness of Christ – Good with God

(SLIDE 10) New Life - Life in Newness (Being Buried and Raised)

(SLIDE 11) Exonerated Life - Life in Forgiveness

(SLIDE 12) Victorious Life - Victory in Jesus

We Will Live Liberated in Jesus Christ (SLIDE 13)

Liberated From Captivity

Man Made Traditions and Religion

Man's Standard of Morality (Right and Wrong)

Man's Wisdom

Guilt and Shame from Forgiven Things

By My Own Strength (Works Based Salvation and Sanctification)

Liberated in Jesus Christ

Justified by Christ Alone

Reconciled To God in Christ

Guided by the Holy Spirit = Obedient to God

Given New Heart, Mind, Desires, and Actions

Living In the Strength of Jesus Christ

Living By Faith in Jesus Christ

Read

Galatians 5:1 ESV (SLIDE 14)

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 15)