



**Grace Life Church**

*of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

# **Colossians 2:8-15**

## **Sufficient in Christ**

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## **Colossians 2:8-10**

*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.*

## Colossians 2:11-12

*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.*

## Colossians 2:13-15

*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.*

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# Salvation: What does man bring to the table?

If you want to boast in your contribution to salvation, this is your boast:

V13 *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh*

- Man is spiritually dead (depraved nature) (Eph 2:1-3, Rom 3:10-18, Gen 6:5, Ps 51:5)-Unable and unwilling to turn
- Left alone man is helpless/hopeless in reforming himself (Slave to sin-Rom 6)

V14 *the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands*

- **Revelation 20:12** *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (Rom 2:6-11)*
- We are condemned in Adam (Rom 5:18-19) and in ourselves, and we have a record of debt that must be paid in full

V15 (For those outside of Christ, there are) *rulers and authorities* (satan and demons)

- The unbeliever is hopeless & helpless against satan/demons (John 8)

# Salvation: But God, in and through Christ

God deals with our record of debt: God provides a way for the legal demands to be satisfied, and for Him to forgive guilty sinners, while remaining just: **In Christ alone**

- *13b 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.***
  - God has made a way for ALL our sins to be forgiven (Rom 3:21-26, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 John 4:10)
  - When were these legal demands settled? *Nailed to the cross* (Heb 10:1-25, John 19:30)-Outside of us, our debt account was settled
  - If all our trespasses are forgiven in Christ, and our record of debt and it's legal demands are cancelled and nailed to the cross, regarding our position (justification) before God, what needs to be added to this?
  - It is in knowing who Jesus is, what He accomplished and who I am in Him, that I stand firm in Christ and do not waver
  - This answers what Christ has accomplished regarding our sin/debt

# Salvation: But God, in and through Christ

How is Christ finished and sufficient work of atonement applied to us? Or how do we receive forgiveness?

- *V12 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*
  - Through faith (not works) we are united with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection (Acts 16:31, Rom 10:9-10, John 3:36)
  - The finished work of Christ's atoning death, burial and resurrection is applied to us through faith

Christ not only dealt with the penalty of our sin and it's legal demands but he also deals with our sin nature (and slavery)

*V13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him*

- **Eph 2:4** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses made us alive together with Christ*
- This is the work of regeneration (new birth) John 3, Ezek 36:22-31
- In both forgiveness and being made alive, these are works of God, through Christ done towards us or in us (we do not contribute to these works)



# Salvation: But God, in and through Christ

Now Paul exposes the heretical teaching of the need for Christ plus circumcision

V11 **In him** *also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh, by the circumcision of Christ*

- Imagine someone has been teaching you that you need Christ plus human circumcision and now consider Paul's response
  - *In Him (Christ) you were circumcised* (already accomplished)
  - The circumcision you needed could not be accomplished by man (*made without hands*)
    - We need a circumcision of the heart ( **Romans 2:29, Jeremiah 4:4**)
  - The circumcision you need can only be accomplished by Christ (and it accomplishes the *putting off the body of flesh*)
    - **Romans 6:6** *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing so that we would not longer be enslaved to sin* (reckon v11 and not present our members to sin but to righteousness v13)
  - **Galatians 5:6** *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love*

# Salvation: But God, in and through Christ

V15 *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him*

- Just as in our trespasses being forgiven and our record of debt being cancelled and nailed to the cross, when did he disarm the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame? When he triumphed over them in Christ
- Although we still wrestle “*against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph 6:12)*”, we wrestle against a defeated and disarmed enemy that has been put to open shame by Christ.
  - To the degree we understand this and walk in the truth of it, we will walk in victory over sin and satan (and thus glorify God)

# In Christ:

- You don't need circumcision with human hands, you have been circumcised in Christ by the putting off the body of flesh. V11
- You have been buried and raised with him in baptism, received through faith not works v12
- You are alive and no longer dead in trespasses or slaves to sin v13
- All your trespasses are forgiven, and your record of debt is canceled, nailed to the cross v13-14
- You do not have to fear or submit to rulers and authorities, they have been triumphed. v15
- You are complete because He is sufficient-The Bible