

**Colossians**  
**16 – Righteousness According to Christ Part 1**  
**Colossians 2:11-17**  
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I. Background Concepts

A. The Law of God – Old and New Covenants

B. The Central Position of Circumcision to Old Covenant Law

C. The Particular Error Paul is Concerned With Regarding the Use of Old Covenant Law

II. Christ Our Righteousness – The Substance that Sets Aside the Shadows

A. On the cross, Christ satisfied all the demands of the law on our behalf, secured forgiveness for all our transgressions, and fulfilled all the types and shadows of the law so that the requirements of the ceremonial law no longer are binding on the people of God as they were on Israel under the Old Covenant.

B. Through faith, we are united with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection, such that we have died to sin and been made alive in Him.

C. Christ's work was so complete that there is no power in heaven or earth that can make a claim against us. Our righteousness in Christ is without defect or deficiency. When we live according to the righteousness of Christ, there is no better righteousness.

III. Circumcision as a Shadow is Inferior, Not Superior, to the Substance Which is of Christ.

Circumcision had three great defects/deficiencies:

A. It was strictly physical when the need was spiritual.

B. It was a limited and exclusive rite in view of a universally inclusive need.

C. It was an inadequate portrayal of the work of salvation to address our need.

Their position in the New Covenant in Christ was far better:

A. Though uncircumcised in flesh, they had been circumcised in heart.

B. They had received a new and different ordinance for a new and different covenant.

IV. The Requirements of the Ceremonial Law are Inferior, Not Superior to the Substance Which is of Christ.