



Edgemont Bible Church
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Colossians

June. 19, 2016

Intro: In Col 2:10, Paul says that we are complete in Him....This would mean that in Christ, we have no need of supplementation from human philosophy, psychology, ritualism, mysticism, self denial, or any other work to stand okay in God's eyes. When a person comes to Christ, they are a new Creature, the old is past, all things are becoming new (2 Co 5:17; Gal 6:15). Having stated that we are complete, Paul expand in his explanation.

IX. Complete in Christ

A. Complete Salvation

1. The heresy in Colosse was a mixture of

- a. pagan philosophy and
- b. Jewish legalism
- c. Therefore: circumcision was a part of their heresy

2. Circumcision

a. 2 views on it importance

i. some thought circumcision alone was enough to save

- but - Ro 9:6b For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,
- membership in the covenant community did not guarantee individual salvation
 - Ro 2:25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.
 - Ro 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;
- Abraham shows that circumcision doesn't save
 - Ro 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,
 - Gen 15:6; 17:10

ii. Others thought circumcision was an outward demonstration that man was born in sin and was in need of cleansing

- the cutting away of the foreskin on the reproductive organ showed that man needed cleansing at the deepest level

- no other part shows this better - that part which produces life, and all that he produces is sinful
- The NT emphasizes the circumcision of the heart
 - Ac 7:51 "You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!
 - Ro 2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart,

b. For believers -

- i. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands; by the circumcision of Christ,
- ii. The object of circumcision
 - putting off the body of the sins of the flesh,
 - the sin nature - Ro 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
 - Php 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
- iii. Then why do we still sin?
 - Ro 7:15-23
 - The new man
 - wants to please God
 - but resides in unredeemed flesh
 - the flesh
 - is still subject to temptation from the world - 1 Jo 2:16
 - has a law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. - Ro 7:23; Gal 5:17
- iv. Baptism, obviously not in water
 - Ritual water baptism no different than circumcision
 - pictures union with Christ
 - buried with Him in baptism,
 - in which you also were raised with Him
- v. through faith in the working of God - **Energieia** - energy: refers to active power, the same power that raised Christ from the dead - Ro 10:9

B. Complete Forgiveness

1. Second approach from the negative side

- a. we were dead
 - i. Greek - Locative of Sphere - in the realm of spiritual death
 - ii. To be devoid of any sense, unable to respond to spiritual stimuli
- b. not only in your trespasses - Eph 2:1
- c. but also in the uncircumcision of your flesh,
 - i. designates Gentiles
 - ii. Those outside of the Covenant – Eph 2:11-12

2. He has

- a. made alive together with Him, - Eph 2:4
 - i. again stresses our union with Christ – in or with Christ
 - ii. because of our deadness - He initiated salvation
- b. forgiven you all trespasses, Ps 32:1
 - i. God forgives the sins of those who trust in Him
 - Ps 130:3-4 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.
 - Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
 - Mic 7:18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.
 - ii. Theme of the NT
 - Mt 26:28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - Ac 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."
 - Ac 13:38-39 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; "and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses
 - iii. Characteristics of God's forgiveness
 - It is gracious – Ro 3:24; Tit 3:4-7
 - It is complete – Eph 1:7; Ro 5:20
 - It is eager – Ezek 18:23; Ps 86:5

- It is unequalled – Mic 7:18
- It is motivating – Eph 4:32; Mt 18:23-35

c. Forgiveness illustrated

i. handwriting of requirements

- **cheirographon** - something hand-written,
- used to refer to certificate of indebtedness/ an IOU handwritten by the debtor in acknowledgment of his debt

ii. requirements that was against us,

- **dogma** - a law (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical):--decree, ordinance.
- The Mosaic law – Eph 2:15
- All people owe God a debt because of violating His law – Ro 2:14-15

iii. which was contrary to us

- enough to condemn
- Ga 3:10

iv. having wiped out - And He has taken it out of the way,

- **exaleipho** - to smear out, obliterate (erase tears, pardon sin), blot out, wipe away.
- having nailed it to the cross – not a trace remains

C. Complete Victory

1. Having disarmed principalities and powers, - Heb 2:14

a. stripped - *apekduomai* - to divest wholly oneself, or (for oneself) despoil:- put off, spoil.

b. He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

i. picture of the Roman victor parading the enemy through the streets

2. Once again the heresy included worship of angelic beings that emanated from God

a. the death of Christ on the cross (**Eph 1:20-23; 3:10**)

i. cancelled debt

ii. Defeated Satan – Ro 8:37-39

iii. Though we still wrestle - Eph 6:12;

b. It would be foolish to worship defeated and humiliated being as these