

INTRODUCTION

1. Tit 2:14 reminder of where we've been...
 - i. God is holy. Defilement - death; purification is way back to living w/ the Lord. Defiled: birthing, death; clean & unclean; holy & profane. OT looks to prospect of internal purity of heart.
 - ii. Circum as sign of AbCov: 2 kinds of seed [births] & dual signif of circum. *we are the true circum* [Phil 3].
2. Col 2:11. NT uses OT vocab for purity elevated into NCov life of holiness.
 - i. Heb 9:9-14 OCov sanctity concerned *regulations for the body*; NCov sanctity penetrates into the *conscience*; heart [[2C 3:3].
 - ii. Circum delineates people of God [metonymy or synecdoche]: stands for entire life lived.
3. Dt 30:6 - When Lord circum's heart it issues into life of love of God [& neighbor] evidenced by obedience to God's law/commands.

1st: We Have Complete "Fulness" in Christ - Col 2:11-14

1. Xns in Col were enticed by a "Jesus +" spirituality: fulness. 2:9-10 *all the fulness* is Christ - *we have been made complete* [full] in Christ.
2. Our fulness is *in Christ - circum'd* [v11]; *baptism* [v12]; *made alive w/ Christ & forgiven* [v13] b/c of Jesus' death [v14].

2nd: We Have Been Circumcised by Christ - v11

1. *circum* - 3x. Who is circum'd? *you*. Where? *In Him*. When? in the past. What kind of circum was it? *Made w/o hands*.
 - i. *made w/o hands* = phrase re: the age to come.
 - ii. Dan 2:24,45 stone *cut w/o hands*
 - iii. Mrk 14:58 temple *made w/o hands*. 2C 5:1
 - iv. Heb 9:11 *not made w/ hands= not of this creation - v24*
 - v. A circum *made w/o hands* is a circum *not of this creation*.
2. What did the circum *remove*? *the body of the flesh*. *Flesh* = 1] physical body; 2] our frailty - dust; 3] man in this present age - fallen, depraved. R 7:24-25 *body of this death* [v24]= *my flesh* [v25] = *the body of flesh*. Circum of Col 2:11 cuts off our fallen depravity, sinful nature of this age.

3. Who circumcised us? 1] & *in Him* = "by whom also". 2] *by the circum of Christ* [NASB, KJV, ESV, ASV] - NIV: *when you were circum'd by Christ*. Objective reality for every Xn. Not a command.
4. What is this circum? [Eph 2:11] - Dt 30:6. Circum of heart issues into a life of love to God in obedience to His commands.
 - i. R 2:28-29 NCov circum is regeneration

3rd: The Blessings of Our Union with Christ - v12-15

1. v12 - *baptism* is not H2O[!] it = union w/ Christ in His death & res. *Baptism* is translated = "immersed into so as to be identified w/".
 - i. v12's union w/ Christ occurs after v11's circum/regen. What connects us to Jesus? *thru faith* in God who raised Jesus from dead.
 - ii. Faith & repentance. Repent - b/c of the *removal of body of flesh*; b/c of the *washing* of regeneration [Tit 3:5]. Regeneration as *renewing* [Tit 3:5] is expressed by faith in risen Jesus
 - iii. Regeneration issues into a life in union with Jesus & defined by Jesus' death & resurrection evidenced by repentance & faith. The reality of baptism into Jesus informs the rite of baptism.
2. v13 returns to our pre-regen'd state: *when we were dead* Gentiles: *He made you alive* - we believed & were forgiven [justification]
3. v14 explains forgiveness b/c of Jesus' cross: paid penalty for all our sins
4. v15 cross disarmed & triumphed over all hostile powers
5. Tit 2:14 - *He gave Himself for us to purify a people for Himself*.
6. Col 2:11-12 is the only text w/ "circum & bapt" in close proximity.
7. Not easy [2Pt 3:16]. Live Xn life w/ renewed mind, informed by Scriptural vocab & concepts: a union-w/-Jesus resurrection life: holy life [R 6:10-11].
8. What a privilege to be Jesus' purified people!