

Message #10**Colossians 2:11-15**

Jesus Christ is all you need to be complete in your relationship with God. Jesus Christ has achieved and accomplished on Calvary everything necessary to make you complete before God.

The Apostle Paul was writing to the Colossians, who were being told by various heretics that Jesus Christ was not enough. Some were saying you gained a complete standing with God by works, some said it was by keeping the Law, some said it came through a deeper secret-type knowledge; all of these people were wrong for complete standing with God is only found in Jesus Christ!

EVERYTHING WE NEED AND HAVE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS COMPLETELY AND FULLY FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1 – We have been made complete in Jesus Christ because we have been circumcised in Christ. **2:11**

Physical circumcision in the O.T. meant one was a child of God, one was consecrated to God and one was separated from the rest of the world. Physical circumcision was a one time act. It was one key O.T. way to connect one to Abraham and to God (Gen. 17:9-14). Physical circumcision was only and obviously performed on males, not females.

Spiritual circumcision in the N.T. often symbolizes the same thing—one is a child of God and is consecrated to God and separated from the rest of the world by faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:9-12). It is performed on both male and female hearts. Unless your heart has been circumcised by faith in Jesus Christ, you are cut off from God.

The point is that by faith in Jesus Christ, we (believers) have been circumcised with a circumcision made without hands. Christ has spiritually made us right with God. He has removed the body of the flesh, which means our old Adamic status has been changed and we are a new creation; we have been born again by the circumcision of Christ. It is the spiritual circumcision and surgery of the heart (Rom. 2:29).

Paul said in Galatians 6:15—“For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”

ACCOMPLISHMENT #2 – We have been made complete in Jesus Christ, because we have been baptized in Christ. **2:12**

Just as when we trusted Christ as Savior, there was a spiritual circumcision performed by Christ without hands, so also there was a spiritual baptism. The baptism referred to in this verse is Spirit baptism, not water baptism. The baptism referred to in this verse is a real baptism, not a ritual baptism.

At the moment we trusted Jesus Christ by faith, the Spirit of God baptized each one of us into the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13). At that precise moment, in the mind of God, we were so truly and really identified with Christ that we are already raised with Him and seated in the heavenlies.

The original text literally reads we have been buried with Christ in “the” baptism. The baptism that is a without hands baptism is spirit baptism. At the moment we believed on Christ, God’s Spirit so identified us with Jesus Christ that we are alive unto God. Look carefully at the verse; it all happened “through faith.” The moment you believed on Christ, God identified you with everything Christ is and with everything Christ accomplished.

We have been crucified with Christ, but the nail prints are not in our hands, they are in His.

We have been buried with Christ, but the death was not our death, it was His.

We are seated with Christ, but the honor is not our honor, it is His.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #3 – We have been made complete in Jesus Christ because we have been made alive by Jesus Christ. **2:13-14**

POINT #1 - Paul describes what we previously were. **2:13a**

1) We were continually dead in our transgressions .

In the original, there is an article before the word “transgressions” which means prior to faith in Christ, we were dead in our relationship with God by virtue of the fact that we specifically trespassed against God. We all took specific false steps contrary to the Word and will of God. We all broke God’s Law and are guilty.

Prior to faith in Christ, one is not just dead in his relationship because of sin; he is dead in his own sin. Each person has transgressed the Law of God. Each person has stepped over the line. Each person is guilty as charged!

2) We were continually dead in our uncircumcision .

John Eadie writes: “Uncircumcision of the flesh was the physical mark of a heathen state...” (p. 159). What Paul is saying here is prior to faith in Jesus Christ, God saw us as heathens.

POINT #2 - Paul describes what Christ personally did. **2:13b-14**

Jesus Christ personally and positionally mad us alive unto God. Being made alive unto God is by being joined to Jesus Christ—notice “made you alive together with Him.”

Now there is one key ingredient that is needed in order to be alive unto God—“All” our sins and transgressions must be forgiven. Dr. S.L. Johnson said of this last participial clause—“One of the greatest blessings of the new life is expressed by the concluding clause of the verse “having forgiven us all our transgressions” (p. 17).

What Paul is saying is that when you believe on Jesus Christ, God so identifies you with Christ’s work that “all” your transgressions and sins are completely and fully and freely forgiven. Your slate is wiped clean.

Isaiah said: “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow...” (Is. 1:18).

David said: “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! (Ps. 32:1).”

By the way, those who know Jesus Christ need to believe the Word of God in that “all” your transgressions are forgiven when you trust Christ. You have no right to walk around with some guilt complex when in God’s mind your slate is completely clean.

Aspect #1 - Jesus Christ cancelled out the handwriting against us. **2:14a**

The word “cancel” is one that means to wipe off and wipe out (*Ibid.*, p. 159). Jesus Christ completely wiped out all handwriting against us. The handwriting is a reference to the written Law of God. The Law of God, which consisted of all His decrees and ordinances, was written by God and condemns us all. We all are indebted to keep the whole Law of God and none of us have ever kept it. In fact, through the Law the whole world becomes guilty and accountable to God (i.e. Rom. 3:19).

Aspect #2 - Jesus Christ has taken out the handwriting against us. **2:14b**

The verb “taken” is perfect tense, meaning Christ’s work on Calvary removed all of our sins at one moment of time and continues to cancel out all charges against us. The words “out of the way” is the same construction used in I Corinthians 5:2 which speaks of excommunication. What this means is that Christ has completely removed, He has completely excommunicated the Law from having any claim over the believer. In the mind of God, all legal charges against us were nailed to the cross with Jesus Christ.

S.L. Johnson said: “Christianity is not concerned with a sacrifice we make, but with a sacrifice which we trust” (p. 19).

ACCOMPLISHMENT #4 – We have been complete in Jesus Christ because all powers have been disarmed and displayed by Jesus Christ. **2:15**

The cross turned out to be the greatest defeat ever suffered by Satan.

Christ died on the cross and freed man from all his sin and from all legal charges that God's Law could bring against him. Satan and his forces have been completely disarmed and discredited by the work of Jesus Christ.

Ladies and Gentlemen, everything we need and have in our relationship with God is completely, fully and finally found in Jesus Christ. The pronoun "Him" is enough. If you want forgiveness of all your sins, it will not be found in confession, it will not be found in asceticism or catechism; it is only found in Jesus Christ. God's legal indictment against you has been nailed to the cross. If you will, by faith, believe on only Jesus Christ to save you, you shall be saved and set free from all your sins.