

Colossians 2:11-15

Announcements?

- On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, citizens across our state will participate in crucial midterm elections that will shape our communities for years to come.
- 17 State Constitutional Amendments, school board members, city government officials.
- Let us unite in prayer for informed and discerning voters guided by truth, and election officials who count ballots with accuracy and integrity.
- Encourage everyone to make every effort to vote because when people of faith come together at the polls, we can positively impact our communities. Vote biblically and righteously.
- Ask the Lord to move in every heart as Americans exercise this sacred civic responsibility.

Please open to **Colossians Chapter 2** (Need a Bible? Back of seats... or raise hand...)

- Last time: Deceptions / Persuasion: Philosophies, Human traditions, Complete in Christ
 - Walk in Him, good order, rooted, built up, established in the faith, abounding...
- This time: Not legalism this week as mentioned (saving for next week vv. 16-23)
 - This week. **Shorter. Communion. Baptisms. Glorious benefits of Christ!**

Message Title: Transformation & Triumph!

- Transformation (vv. 11-13a)
- Triumph (vv 13b - 15)

We live in a world obsessed with **self-improvement** - new diets, new gyms, new styles, new "you."

- **Believers in Colossae** were tempted to do that with their faith. **Jesus plus...**
 - Circumcision, diets, sabbath following, new philosophies, mystical experiences, etc.
- In this passage, Paul drops the **Gospel atomic bomb** - **everything we need is in Christ!**
- The Gospel is not just "turning over a new leaf" - but in Christ, "planting an entirely new tree!"
- When Jesus saves, He doesn't just make bad people better; He makes **dead people alive!**
 - And then **leads them in victory** over sin, shame, and every power of darkness.

Transformation (vv. 11-13a)

V. 11 - In Him

- **Fronted!** In Christ alone! **You are complete in Him!** (everything here flows from this...)
 - Specifically, **death, burial, and resurrection.**

V. 11 - you were also circumcised with the **circumcision made without hands**

- **You were circumcised**
 - **Peritemno** (peri = away/around + temno = cut off) means literally "cutting away"
- This cutting away can be either **Physical or Spiritual.**
- **Physical** for **Hebrew boys on the 8th day** and those that converted
 - **Genesis 17 = A sign of covenant!**
- But, even in the Old Testament, there was a **metaphoric spiritual sense** as well.
 - **Deuteronomy 10:16 - "Circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn."**

- Jeremiah 4:4 - "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts."
- **God always aimed at the heart** of the people, not just the skin. (*but they missed it*)
- **True transformation** is **not external rules or rituals**; its **internal operation by the Spirit**
- Here, **In Christ**, the Colossians had been circumcised (**Aorist tense** = *it had already happened*)
- But this was **not Physical**, it was **"Circumcision made without hands"** (*acheiropoietos*) describes *things that humans cannot do* (Mark 14:58 about the *"temple Jesus would raise"*)
- So, we're dealing here with a **Spiritual cutting away, In Christ. Even the Gentiles!**
 - Not something you do; it's **something God does to you and in you. Stop trying...**
 - **It's an inner surgery. Surgery of the soul.** A *cutting away* of the *sinful heart*...

V. 11 - by **putting off** the body... of **the flesh**

- **apekdysis** = "putting off, laying aside" (imagery of discarding filthy clothing/rags)
 - It's a *perfect word picture* given our **corrupted fleshly nature, In ADAM. Gone!**
- **Tou somatos tes sarkos** = "The body of flesh" (complete portion of all evil desires and passions) - *not the physical body of flesh, but the inherited sinful nature of the "old man"*
- **Put it all together** = **In Christ**, we have all received **a spiritual circumcision** which is the *tossing or cutting away* of the *old sinful man* that *used to rule us with evil passions and desires.*
 - (Gangrene leg: not a bandaid, but amputation!)
 - (like a snake sheds its skin - old is gone)
 - **Anyone thankful that the old man is dead!?!?**

What is the means by which?

V. 11 - by the **circumcision of Christ** (Christ performed a spiritual circumcision, NLT)

- To summarize: **Death**. It's a gruesome **metaphor for the crucifixion**.
- Christ's death on the cross *wasn't a cutting away of a small piece of flesh*. No, it was much deeper, it was a **violent piercing of his entire body** in death.
- And, now, **In Christ, we share** in this **complete cutting away**.
- **The circumcision of Christ** was a *complete physical death* that *resulted in our death* (*which needed to happen*). **Death to our cursed fallen nature in Adam. Spiritual surgery...**

V. 12 - In **baptism**

- **Baptismos** = "to dip (or immerse) as one does a cloth into a dye. A washing, purification effected by means of water"
- **Spiritually**, when you *submit your life to Christ*, you are **baptized in Him**.
- 1 Cor. 12:13 - "For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."
- And **the picture** of this *spiritual reality* is that of **water baptism**.
- **Have you been?** It's the **next step of obedience...**
- Exodus 14 (Red Sea Crossing): - *"all baptized into Moses" (passed through the sea)* - 1 Cor 10
 - **Leaving bondage behind. Enemy buried in the water. New life ahead = freedom.**

The picture is laid out here for us...

V. 12 - **buried with Him**

- This is **identification with Christ's death**.
- Pictured by us **going fully under the water** (*not just a sprinkle*) = **full immersion!**

- A pastor once said, “*The old me went under that water — and I made sure to hold him down until the bubbles stopped.*”

V. 12 - in which you also were **raised with Him**

- **Identification with Christ’s glorious new resurrection life!**
- Pictured by coming up out of the water, to walk in new life. It’s a **public confession!**

Paul summarized all of this very nicely to the Romans:

- *Romans 6:3-4, CSB* - “...all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death... Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.”

We have been **raised WITH Christ**. His resurrection is our resurrection. **Here and NOW!**

V. 12 - **through faith** in the **working of God** who raised Him from the dead.

- Notice Paul doesn’t say “*through baptism*” but “*through faith*”
- The preposition “**through**” (*dia*) is the means by which we access all this glorious salvation.
- **Water baptism** *doesn’t save us—faith saves us*. Water baptism is the **public declaration** of what *has already happened internally* (**spiritual baptism**). *Wedding Ring example.*
- Also, notice, all of this is a “**powerful working of God.**” (*same power lives/works in you!*)

V. 13 - **New heart... New Life... A New Standing!**

V. 13 - And you, being (when you were) **dead in your trespasses**

- First **notice your previous standing** - *you were dead*. That is **theologically true**. *In Adam*
- **In your trespasses**. = **Preposition “in”** = *the “atmosphere” we inhaled or walked in*
- **Paraptoma** (*para* = aside + *pipto* = fall) - *is literally a “falling away.”* (*pepto bismal* :)
- **Latin**: *trans* = across + *gradi* = to step. “*To go beyond or overstep a boundary*”
- *Romans 5:12* - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...” - **all separated from God.**
- People have **a false sense of security**. You *think you’re okay, but you’re not*. You **might look alive on the outside** (*go to work, pay bills, eat, hangout*) but, **you’re dead and dying**.
- And some people think they’re **only a little sick**. Paul’s diagnosis is **much worse...**

V. 13 - The **uncircumcision of your flesh**

- **Physically true** of the **Gentiles**.
- **Spiritually true** of *all people*. “**King self**” = “**flesh**”
- Picture **a stubborn hard heart** that *can’t be changed on its own*. **Need an outside cutting.**
- “*The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.*”
- **Gospel comes in and cuts** (*circumcizes the flesh*) and then **calls us to something greater!**

V. 13 - He has **made alive together with Him**

- **HE has** - It’s **God’s action**, not ours. **Dead people don’t do CPR on themselves!**
- **Made us ALIVE** = **A New Heart. A New Life. A New Standing. Alive!** (**AED = clear!**)
- **Alive WITH HIM** = **His life becomes our life**. We now **share in the riches** of His glory!
 - All the Greek verbs are intentionally expressive: *co-buried, co-raised, and co-made alive.*

The point: Christianity isn't about becoming "*nicer*." It's about becoming "*new*."

- It's *not just resuscitation* of your old life, It's **death and resurrection unto new life!**
- *Have you been made alive with Christ?*

There is **victory** over sin and death!

Triumph (vv. 13b-15)

This whole section is the language of **freedom and victory!** (*sin is paid for, darkness is defeated*)

V. 13 - having **forgiven you all trespasses**

- In the last section we saw that we have been delivered from the bondage of death.
- Now we see that we have also been forgiven of the penalty of sin.
- **Charizomai** = kindness, benevolence. granting pardon. The root is grace - "graciously forgiving"
- **How good is our God?!?! Forgiveness isn't earned; it's a gift of grace.**
- Notice: "**ALL** our trespasses" How many? **ALL**. **Forgiven in Christ Jesus - paid in full!**
- **Aorist tense** = past action. **Done deal.** (*east to the west*) - **don't let the devil punk you.**

V. 14 - having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements** that was against us

- **Cheirographon tois dogmasin** = a "written certificate of debt" that has been "legally and publicly decreed" - **ancient IOU** = record of debt you owed. **legal.**
- **That was AGAINST us** - We were *stuck in a bondage of debt*. **Law** was *stacking against us*.
 - Jealousy, strive, envy, wrath, dishonesty, lust, greed, gluttony, sloth, idolatry = **guilty**
 - The **burden** on the back of "Christian" (*Pilgrim's Progress*)
- **That's the bad news**, here's the **triumphant victorious good news**...
- **He Wiped them out** = **Aorist past tense**
- **Exaleipho** (ek = out [intensifier] + aleipho = wipe, cover, or smear) - "to completely erase"
- **Rad! Rad, mega rad! "He blots out our transgressions!" (Isaiah 43:25) Banished!**
- And **in case it wasn't clear**, Paul states **this victory in other words**...

V. 14 - He has **taken it out of the way**

- **Airo** = "To lift up or take away"
- **John 1:29 - Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away [airo] the sin of the world!**
 - ...not hidden, not overlooked, not swept under a rug.. but **removed entirely!**
- **Should that not give us a reason to praise Him!? Hallelujah! Someone, praise the Lord!**

V. 14 - having **nailed it to the cross.**

- On **the cross**, **Christ paid that massive legal debt we owed.** **Oh that beautiful rugged cross.**
- **Alluding to an ancient practice** - when **a certificate of debt was paid** - **publicly nail it to a post.**
- **That's what our Lord did.** With **his body nailed to the cross.** And **a sign nailed above His head.**
- **What happened at the cross:**
 - Our **debt** was not ignored—**it was paid**
 - Our **sins** were not minimized—**they were punished**
 - The **legal demands** were not lowered—**they were fulfilled**
 - **Justice** was not compromised—**it was fully satisfied**

- Isaiah 53:5-6 - "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities... and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all"

There's **more victory to announce**. On that cross, Jesus not only dealt with sin, but also with Satan.

- What looked like a victory for the enemy turned out to be his defeat...
 - "Strike heel, crush head" (Gen. 3:15) = **protoevangelium**

Three major victories (at the cross) announced in these closing verses:

- (1) Disarmed principalities/powers
- (2) Made a public display of them
- (3) Triumphed over them in it (the cross)

First victory...

V. 15 - Having **disarmed principalities and powers**

- **Disarmed** means to "**strip away**" (in a military sense - to **take away someone's weapons**)
 - To strip them bare like a defeated soldier... **but who are we talking about here?**
- **Principles and powers** (rulers and authorities) - **angelic forces of darkness** (demons)
- **Primary weapons?** **Accusation/condemnation**.
 - "Look, guilty; deserve death; ; they owe, they must pay; punish them"
- **And they were right! We were guilty.**
 - Until the incarnation & crucifixion stripped their accusations worthless/weightless.
 - For the Christian, **that dog is all bark and no bite**. (dog the bounty hunter...)
- The accusers have nothing left to accuse us with - because the **debt has been paid**
- **Aorist past tense** = **This already happened**. (at the cross)

Second victory...

V. 15 - He **made a public spectacle** of them (put them to open/public shame)

- Making **a public spectacle** carries the idea of "**putting to open/public shame**."
- To "**expose**" or "**make an example out of**." It further carries the idea of **boldness**.
- **Summary**: all of this was not a timid plan B. The cross was the **roaring public wrath of God**.
- The cross of Christ boldly and publicly caused the enemy to **suffer disgrace and shame**.
- In some allegorical way it pictures the story of **David and Goliath** (1 Samuel 17)
 - Goliath taunted Israel, seemingly undefeatable
 - David, the unlikely champion, faced him with bold faith in God
 - One stone to the head, and the giant fell
 - David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword
 - **Using the enemy's weapon against him!**
 - The Philistine army fled in terror
- **Jesus did the same thing**
- Satan thought death/crucifixion was his weapon, but it **turned out to be the place of victory**, thereby putting the enemy to shame.

Third victory...

V. 15 - **triumphing over them** in it.

- Yes, disgrace for the enemies of God, but **for Christ**, it was a **great triumph!** (and for us, in Christ!)

- This greek word for Triumph absolutely depicts the **Triumphal Roman procession**
 - **Elegant affair**: *beasts, incense, music, parade, spoils of war, soldiers, captives (humiliated and conquered)*
 - **Victory for the general** who conquered...
 - **Shame for the captives** in chains....
- Used in context of this verse - it **portrays Jesus as the conquering General** of all mankind. And even more specifically, of the evil forces of darkness in the spiritual realm. **Defeated**
 - Picture **Pharaoh's armies drowning** after the baptism of Moses (Exodus 14 / 1 Cor 10)
- The devil thought the cross was his victory parade, but it was actually his funeral procession.
- Sure, Eph 6 says armor up. But the **enemy has already been defeated** (days are numbered).
 - Don't lose hope cause Sunday is coming, Devil you're done, you better start running!
- **(don't give too much)** We fight from a place of victory not for it. **Greater is He who is in us!**

Romans 8:31-39. NLT - "If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ...who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? No... overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Closing:

All of this is **pointed to the cross of Christ**. The place of **transformation and triumph!**

- **Transformation**: Cut, buried, raised—into new life!
- **Triumph**: Debt canceled, devil defeated—freedom and victory!

Altar Call - G.O.S.P.E.L. = **From death to Life!**

- Rev. 22:17 - "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' Let anyone who hears this say, 'Come.' Let anyone who is thirsty come. **Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life!**"

Communion - first song, then elements (together)

- **This all points us back to the cross** (no communion verses) - **With thanksgiving!**
 - **The bread** = the body cut for your fallen nature (v. 11).
 - **The cup** = the blood that canceled your legal debt (v. 14)
 - **The victory** = enemies defeated as we eat and drink (v. 15).
- 1 Corinthians 11:26 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death until he returns.**"

Baptism - symbol of new life. Public identification. (very important)

- **Death, burial, new life!**
- **Get your kids, first!**
- **Let them know the water is very warm!** (*i hope*)

- *We have shirts and towels (some signed up, **some stirred today!**)*
- *See you out back in 5 minutes (quickly (for 1st service))*

PRAY