



**Series:** Life With Jesus – Week 4

**Sermon Title:** Better Than Anything

**Date:** 10/1/2023

## Colossians 2:11-23

**Big Idea:** Believe you have already been raised to life!

In this passage, we are going to see three powerful reasons why this is true:

### **YOUR DEBTS ARE CANCELED.**

In Colossians 2:11-14 we see how Jesus canceled your debt. In Paul's day, and even to this day, circumcision was a physical mark of a person's faith and commitment to God Almighty. Believers don't need to go through literal circumcision, like the Jews. Instead, Jesus, cut off your old self with its sinful desires.

### **In Jesus, your old self is gone.**

At its core, this is the difference between religiosity and true faith. Faith in Jesus, without any effort on your own, begins to change you. Religiosity is what people are tempted to do, to be more holy by what people can see on the outside, or to add to their faith.

Baptism is one of the core steps for a believer in Jesus because of what it represents (**Colossians 2:12**). Look at these two parts: Buried with Jesus – as when he was placed in a tomb, dead. When you are raised up – it also symbolizes you being resurrected in faith. You are ALIVE, resurrected from your spiritually dead self to being spiritually alive. (**Colossians 2:13-14**)

Through Jesus' death on the cross – He once and for all - died as a substitute for anyone who calls on Him in faith.

### **YOUR JUDGES ARE CONQUERED.**

## Colossians 2:15-17

Jesus' resurrection from the dead completely emptied all the authorities of their power. Satan was defeated, the Jewish leaders were humbled, and Pilate representing earthly power government – shown to be impotent.

They were like conquered enemies being dragged in chains behind a victory parade.

Even the Jewish religion is a shadow of the life to come in Jesus. A shadow gives you an idea of what is to come, but knowing that Jesus' sacrifice represents his love and mercy over us is real life. Paul is encouraging his readers – don't let someone Judge you with the Shadow as the standard – you are made free and whole following Jesus.

Because your judges are conquered, Paul offers a graphic warning in **Colossians 2:19**. For anyone that thinks they can steal the freedom you have in Jesus – either by convincing you to beat yourself down or add any other spiritual element as necessary for salvation – it's a sign THEY are like a decapitated dead body. Don't listen to them. You ONLY need faith in Jesus to be saved.

**YOUR FREEDOMS ARE SECURED.**

**Colossians 2:20-21** begins with a mighty If/ Why question.

Paul Assumes for his readers:

YES, I died with Christ to this world, and therefore, my freedoms are secured by Jesus' death. The only commandments I need to be obedient to are those of Jesus! **Matthew 28.20**

Jesus commands are all that matter, and His death set us free:

Free from religiosity and man-made religions.  
Free for a complete relationship with Jesus  
and free from being controlled by sinful desires.

Never look back to a mode of religion to save you or to measure your salvation.

A person is saved solely by faith in Jesus Christ.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How do you discern when someone is trying to teach you something false?**
- **Why is it important to use the freedoms Jesus has given you? Are there any you are not using?**
- **How can a person exercise freedom in Christ without abusing that freedom?**
- **If you are a follower of Jesus, then Jesus canceled your debts. How would you explain this to a person who is learning the basics of the faith?**