

## "Alive In Christ"

### Opening Prayer

Q: How many of you are "sinners"?

Q: How many of you are baptized?

Q: What did God do for you in baptism? Why is that important? Why is that an encouragement?

**Remember:** *St. Paul is writing to a church that was being influenced by Judaism and early Gnosticism. You can see this is the way Paul writes. He's addressing these ideas and issues in a very interesting way! He's addressing them by using "their" language, but using it in a way that points to the Truth and to Jesus! It's masterful! You'll see it in our study today!*

**READ: Colossians 2:6-11** "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,"

Q: According to verse 6, you "received Christ Jesus"! HOW?

Q: How does verse 7, help answer the "how" question above?

Q: According to verse 8, what's a continuous danger to the Christian?

Q: What does verse 9 proclaim, establish, assert to us?

Q: What does verse 10 say has happened to US?

Q: Since verse 10 teaches us that Jesus is the "head of ALL rule and authority", what are the implications of that for us?

Q: What does verse 11 teach us?

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Q: What did the mark of circumcision signify in the Old Testament?

**READ: Colossians 2:12-15** "12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

Q: What does being baptized signify in the New Testament?

**Side Thought:** When Jesus gave us Holy Communion, when He spoke about the "cup", what did He call it? (Hint: Matthew 26:27-28)

Q: SO....how is baptism an "entrance" INTO the new covenant?

Q: According to verse 12 and 13 above, what happens in baptism?

Q: According to verse 12 and 13 "WHO" is doing that work?

Q: What are YOU doing in your baptism?

Q: According to verse 14, what else happened?

Q: What is verse 15 telling us about the cross and the empty tomb?

Q: How does Jesus' victory over "rulers and authorities", impact you today? (Hint: Ephesians 6:12)

Q: How can remembering your baptism daily and "putting on the whole armor of God" help you defeat the evil one in your life?

Q: How is baptism and communion related to spiritual warfare?