

Thankful to be in Barelás – For Zach & Annelies' Partnership – Jeremy...I've waited 18 years to preach Church Planting Pastor | Hard to believe...20 Year reunion | What I always hear 'That's unbelievable'

Christians we believe in the unbelievable | I refuse to believe God can't do the unbelievable
My 'unbelievable' started w/ text - Words God used to do something I couldn't | *Gonna be rough*
I sat and read of the God of the unbelievable...For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 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, 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. 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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

I love that this text breaks the idea of 'fair' and destroys the concept of 'balance' | Explain

- God isn't fair – You're right & thank goodness...if He were fair, we would pay balance of our debt
- I just need to be a good person - How desperately I want people to get off the cosmic scales

The Gospel isn't about what you've done OR what you could do! BI - Accomplishment of the Christ
This is a salvation text – One of the richest salvation texts in all of Scripture...really glad I'm with you
What Christ has done b/c who He is: Christ's universal supremacy translates to His ultimate sufficiency

- In Christ we can experience fulfillment: True Wisdom – Eternal Wealth – Personal Worth
- B/C of who Christ is – we see what Christ has done...4 declarative statements of what Christ has done

1. Christ Has: Embodied all God's Divinity (9-10)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Last w/k...Paul warned abt. being deluded with plausible arguments or taken captive by empty deceit

- So many godless & heretical views that want to disperse the power to multiple gods or nature...
What about Christianity? Is the power in satisfying pagan gods who are fickle -moody - temper tantrums?
In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily – Unassailable Clarity that Jesus is God

- Christ is the real & actual presence God Himself in bodily form | Echo Ch. 1 'Exact representation'
 - 'Fullness of deity' – Entire quality God - Excludes room for any competing doctrines / practices
 - 'Filled with Him' – Excludes the room for anything else – Excludes the need for anything else
 - Head of all Rule and Authority' – In charge with dominance over His domain

'And you have been filled' – Word sailors used for a voyage – Generously supplied...let's use that to ill.

- God came in the flesh and set you on a journey...gave you generously more than you would need
Journey starts...It's Jesus' boat, he's captain, it sits on His ocean, His destination ...He invites you on
Salvation doesn't begin with repentance...(GO BIG)...it begins with faith...in what? Christ is God!

2. Christ Has: Established our New Identity (11-12)

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, 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.

There were two ways to be identified as a Jew: Birth and Circumcision – Initiation rites...unpleasant

- This changes the game – You are not identified by your birth or our outward religious adherence
You are identified as part of God's family because Christ gives you a place in it

'by putting off the body of flesh' – We b/c family...Christ cast off you what separated us from God

- Took off your old garments and gave you new ones...what you were you no longer are
I said...no rituals...'having been buried with him in baptism' | Baptism is inward then outward
Water baptism doesn't cleanse us...it shows that we've been cleansed

- Baptism isn't an initiation rite...baptism's a demonstration that we've already accepted invitation
Why we practice baptism: Removed the old garments – Showing who's family we're a part of

Raised w/ Him – Christ's victory...our | Same power resurrected Jesus...raise us from the grave we dug

- Two things: Baptism is important...not salvific | What clothes do you need to leave in the grave?

3. Christ Has: Erased the Debt We Owe (13:14)

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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Do you know what the 10 Commandments are? Not...better way to live – They are an indictment

- They're a forensic display of my depraved nature – Is no good in me...I have a record of debt
I'm guilty of crimes against a holy, righteous, & loving God...the only just punishment is death (legal)
To fix it...we try to: Plead innocent – Play ignorant – Plea bargain...Won't work...deny God's nature

The debt has to be paid...the account has to be settled...the record has to be reconciled

God in His great love for us...took our record of debt...that stood against us...set it aside...

He didn't forget about it...just call it square...he nailed it to the flesh of His only Son on the cross

I remember sitting...reading ...thinking, 'If you believe that one thing is true...everything will change'

- I was overwhelmed...not with excitement...not eagerness...I was terrified
- I was on the edge of a cliff...I could feel it...If I say, 'yes' to Jesus...then what...unbelievable
I'd have to love God's beloved more than I loved me...I was going to have to die to live
With a shaky hand I wrote 'I will win and influence for the kingdom of Christ no matter the cost'
That wasn't my accomplishment – This isn't my accomplishment – Accomplishment of the Christ
Know what all Christians have in common?

There was a time when they fell on the mercy of Christ and cried out, 'Won't you save me?'

Jesus is God and He came to save sinners...I'm a sinner...save me...please

He will make you alive together with Him – It's unbelievable...that's the God we believe in

The cross not only erased our debt, but it also...

4. Christ Has: Eradicated His Opposition (15)

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- Think for a moment about the cross: it was the most public, shameful way to die
 - 'Rulers and authorities' are our supernatural adversaries – They thought they had Him
Jesus transformed the cross from an execution instrument to a weapon that conquers
Jesus turned what was meant to be His, and our, defeat...and turned it into victory
- 'Open Shame' – The ones who stood in the throne room of God and then betrayed God
 - We're now shown publicly that their fight was lost | We have an enemy...He's lost!
Satan can't mount a defense that will win war...he tries to keep people from believing theirs's a fight
- For those of us in the fight...he slings mud: Fear – Shame – Earthly Suffering...all a bluff
Through Christ's visible, death, resurrection, and ascension...He put on a public display of His victory
Also the defeat of sin – death – and the evil of this world
On your worst days...read the last two verses of your Bible = We win

If this was all up to people – New Identity – Pay the debt – Eradicate the opposition = Unbelievable
Christians...we believe in the unbelievable - All of this is unbelievable and has to be believed
Christ has accomplished all that He came to do...it is finished...Believe it