

Colossians 2:6-15

The King of kings

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. 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. For in him the whole fulness 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 cancelling 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.



Consequences

Therefore,

Paul makes a logical connection.

“Because of who Jesus is and what he has done for us and has made me his servant to bring you God’s word, then



Our faith has reasons.

as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,

How can we receive a person?

By faith in what he said – he will come to indwell us – starting our Christian life in the Spirit and with the truth he revealed about himself.

Jesus in his glory – Messiah and Lord

He is God and should have the last word in our lives.



so walk in him,

So – in this way - as you started – keep on going.

“Walk” is a Hebrew way of speaking .
Faith is something active with direction and purpose.
How can you walk?



rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,

The start illustrated by biology and building

Rooted in him - an unseen vital connection
Support, stability, supply of life giving
nutrients.

Visible – built up – his likeness
Solid in the faith (what you first believed as
given to you – trusting knowledge)



just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

What you were given is the truth – no need for changes or additions.

Follow the instructions –
What is the difference between
'heard and learned'?



just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Lots of thankfulness?

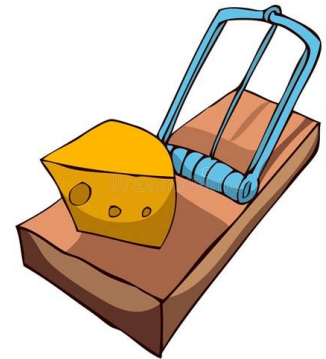
Count your blessings.

Show an appreciation for what we have and what we are promised in God's good time.



See to it that no one takes you captive
by philosophy and empty deceit,

A warning call dealing with the situation in Colossae. Be on your guard – not suspicious about everyone and everything but keep your eyes open – there are traps (to take you captive) i.e. to lose your real freedom.



Present methods of 'attack'

Empty – **philosophy** – ultra-smart human thinking

Empty – **deceit** – big on promises but bad on delivery. = lies

They are offering an 'new or improved' version of the faith.



according to human tradition,

The power of culture – this is the way we did it
So-and-so says
All coming from just human sources of ‘wisdom’



according to the elemental spirits of the world,

But behind these is an even more sinister force at work – demonic activity putting ideas into people’s minds – of the world (godless society driven by them)



and not according to Christ.

The Lord is to be the guide and measure of what is right and good – bringing us into freedom and then keeping us in it.



For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Here is the reason he is the answer and the one to follow:-

In his own person he is fully God
God with us! In a real physical body – contrast early heresies
You can't get any better than Him.



and you **have been** filled in him,

The supply has been provided.

Note the interesting phrase – filled **IN** him
Not **by** him alone but in union with him we have his fulness.



who is the head of all rule and authority.

Our union is with the one in charge of all

He is the LORD. Above all powers. Superior to all others.
This is the answer to the heresy about intermediaries.



In him also you were circumcised
with a circumcision made without hands,

The amazing benefits of our union with Him.

Paul was writing to a majority of Gentile, uncircumcised believers in Colossae.

Circumcised – the covenant sign and blessing from faith

It is not an outward physical operation but an inward change of status and nature, regenerated by the work of the Holy Spirit

Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

by putting off the body of the flesh,
by the circumcision of Christ,

It is a physical description of the change of behaviour
Flesh – old life and lifestyle has gone.



Performed by Christ within us – I am a new creation

having been buried with him in baptism,

Something in us died with him. And so baptism symbolises a burial – dead to the old ways.



in which you were also raised with him

Baptism also symbolises our being raised to new life in our union with him.

What Jesus literally did for us becomes real in us, as symbolised in baptism.



through faith in the powerful working of God,
who raised him from the dead.

This is not simply religious ritual but becomes real by faith (trust) in God's power that was shown in Jesus' resurrection.

This was a tremendous demonstration of the supernatural power of God.



And you, who were dead in your trespasses
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,

Before we believed we were “dead”.

Not physically but:-

Under the death sentence with our sins

Our godless nature was cut off from life with God

cf. Adam’s fall .

*Genesis 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and
evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it
you shall surely die.”*

God made (*you*) alive together with him,

God's grace and mercy acted for us

But note it is always in union with Jesus.
Without him there can be no life.



having forgiven us all our trespasses,

One of the wonderful consequences of his saving work.

ALL our trespasses (In fact sin in all its forms
Omission and commission and corruption)

Justification in Christ's righteousness = past, present and future



GONE

by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us
with its legal demands.

Record of debt – we owed to God. His broken law demanded
payment of the great debt.

How could he simply ‘cancel’ it?



This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

The crime sheet was nailed to the criminal's cross stating the reason for his execution.

There was a real but invisible notice under Jesus' indictment
– 'King of the Jews'

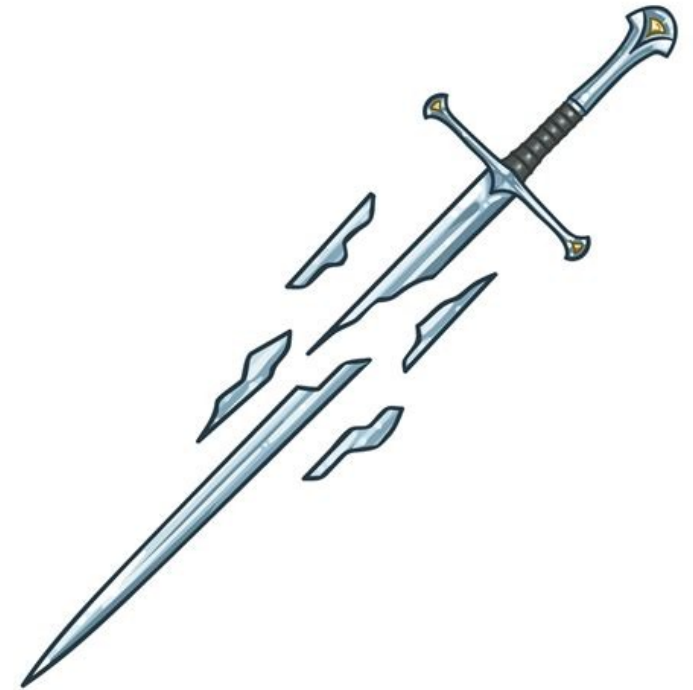
It was your sin and mine. The penalty was being paid by him.



He disarmed the rulers and authorities

Another effect of his saving work was that he took away the power that Satan, death and sin held over us.

Against the believer, what weapons do demonic spirits therefore now have? They are **disarmed**, except for their ability to *deceive* and to create *fear*. These are effective “weapons” that are not tangible weapons at all. Demonic spirits only have power towards us that we grant them by believing their lies. The weapons are in *our* hands, not *theirs*. We will one-day see how afraid they were of *us*.



and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

He showed their claims were now false. They are now weak and useless – shame – for all to see.

1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

If they had known what would happen on the cross, they would have never crucified Jesus. They were defeating themselves and they didn't even know it.

DEFEATED

and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Triumph –a loud victory cry (“It is finished!”)

In and through our Lord Jesus Christ.

They were defeated.

The public spectacle of defeated demonic spirits makes their defeat all the more humiliating. This is a reference to a Roman victory parade.

“Christ is the conquering general; the powers and authorities are the vanquished enemy displayed as the spoils of battle before the entire universe.”



Revelation 17:14

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

