

Lesson Eight
Colossians 2:13-15
Triumphant in Christ

Paul often spoke using word pictures and he gives us vivid pictures in verses 13-15 to show what God in Christ has done for men. Christ has done all that is necessary for the salvation of man and nothing else can be added to it. At the time of Paul's message to the Colossian church the life changing message of the cross had become watered down by false teachers who focused on man's wisdom by steering them away from the cross. Had this been left in place, this would have resulted in a diminished message of salvation that would've lacked any real power. So, Paul sets out to show the total adequacy of the work of Christ. Sin is forgiven, evil is conquered and there is spiritual completeness in the Lord's victory on the cross!

Day One – Alive in Him
Read Colossians 2:13

1. The apostle Paul was never one to mince words. In Colossians 2:13, he tells us the plain truth about our spiritual condition prior to our salvation. What do you learn about Christ's work on our behalf from this verse?

2. A remarkable transformation has taken place. We were once dead, but now we are alive! Compare Colossians 2:13 with Ephesians 2:4-8 and explain in your own words what this means.

3. According to Romans 6:4-14, how should we conduct ourselves now that we are spiritually alive?

a. What choices/changes do you need to make today to obey these commands?

4. The Greek word used in Colossians 2:13a for *trespasses* encompasses all sin, even those committed unknowingly. What are some of the ways that we can unintentionally sin against the Lord or others?

5. How many trespasses are we forgiven of according to Colossians 2:13? Why do you think that this truth is important?

Day Two – Forgiven in Him

Read Colossians 2:13-14

1. Think of it, we have been forgiven of everything! Personalize the words of Psalm 103:1-5, 10-12 and write them below.

2. What additional insights into forgiveness do you gain from Matthew 6:14-15 and Matthew 18:21-35?

a. What hinders us from fulfilling these verses in our lives?

3. The act of forgiving, even when it is undeserved, is one way that we can reflect the character of God. When we extend His grace to another, we are acting as God's ambassador to a wounded world. To whom do you need to extend forgiveness? Write a prayer below asking the Lord to change your heart, if need be, so that you can forgive as God forgave you.

"Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is the power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness."
Author Unknown

4. It is humanly impossible to keep the standards that God set forth in the Bible, but all the incriminating evidence of our shortcomings has been wiped clean for the forgiven man or woman. How does verse Colossians 2:14 explain what was done for us?

5. Every single one of our sinful deeds testified against us, but Colossians 2:14d says that they were nailed to the cross. According to the following verses, what did the cross accomplish for us regarding the righteous demands of the Law?

Romans 8:3

Galatians 3:13a

Ephesians 2:14-17

Day Three – Cancelled Debt in Him
Read Colossians 2:14

1. The handwriting of requirements against us is best described as the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. It was the Law given by Moses that testified of our bankruptcy before God. What was the purpose of the Law according to Galatians 3:23-24?

2. What else do you learn about the Law from the following verses?

Romans 3:20, 23

Galatians 3:10-11

James 2:10

3. Describe a time when you may have felt as if your sins were too great, and you had difficulty accepting God's forgiveness.

4. A beautiful illustration of canceled debt is in Luke 7:36-48. What encouragement can you glean from this passage?

5. What have you learned thus far about Jesus' work on the cross?

a. How will a fuller understanding of Jesus' work on the cross help you live for Him rather than yourself?

6. During the Middle Ages, believers would often erect a simple cross in the town's market square, which came to be known as the Market Cross. The simple and beautiful idea was that the cross should dominate all business, interests, pleasures, and concerns. All earthly life was to be conducted under the shadow of the cross. With that in mind, thoughtfully write out the words of 2 Corinthians 5:15.

"He came to pay a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay."

Author Unknown

Day Four – Victorious in Him

Read Colossians 2:15

When an enemy was overcome in ancient times, the conquered and humiliated opponent was paraded through the streets for all to see. This is the image that Paul draws upon in Colossians 2:15 to help us understand that in Jesus' triumph over Satan, he was disarmed, stripped of his authority, and made a public spectacle.

1. How does Ephesians 6:12 describe the principalities found in Colossians 2:15?

a. What does Revelation 20:10 say about their ultimate end?

b. Why do you think so few people believe in spiritual entities?

2. Jesus has triumphed over Satan and his demons, but that does not stop our adversary from trying to wound God's people. What are some of his methods of attack?

Genesis 3:1-5

Acts 5:3

1 Peter 5:8-9

Revelation 12:9-10

3. What do these verses say about how are we to actively oppose the assaults of the enemy?

Matthew 4:1-10

Ephesians 6:13-18

James 4:7

4. Journal about a time that you successfully used one or more of the above methods to resist the devil.

5. Intense spiritual battles can be overwhelming. According to the following promises, why can we remain confident during these times?

Romans 8:37-39

1 John 4:4

6. If we want to experience consistent victory, we must fully believe what God has done for us in Christ Jesus and then put our belief into action. How will you use what you have learned this week to increase your strength, power, and victory in the Lord?

“Through God, we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies.” Psalm 60:12

