

Lesson Seven
Colossians 2: 9-13
Realities Found in Christ

The Apostle Paul loved Jesus above all else. We see His passionate love for the Savior reflected in his care and concern for the church at Colosse. Paul's burden for these believers' spiritual well-being was so great that he could not stay neutral while their foundation in Christ was being undermined.

Jesus never does anything half-way. When He went to the cross, His work of salvation was thoroughly finished, thereby, giving all who would believe, absolute forgiveness, personal transformation, and total victory over the power of darkness and sin. Paul's aim was to keep the church healthy and to remind believers everywhere of the importance of what they possess in Christ Jesus.

Day One – Complete in Christ
Read Colossians 2:9-10

1. The two small words, *in Him*, found in verses 9 and 10 draw our attention back to Jesus. What do these verses tell you about Him?

2. Although Paul does not use the words deity and incarnation, these two essential doctrines regarding Jesus are expressed in verses 9 and 10. The Bible is very clear as to the identity of Jesus (His deity) and the manner of His existence in the world (His incarnation). What do you learn about each of these?

Deity

John 5:18

John 10:30

Revelation 1:4-8

Incarnation

John 1:1-4, 14

Romans 1:3-4

1 Timothy 3:16

a. Why are these truths essential?

3. As in the Colossian church, many spiritual leaders today teach that Jesus isn't God; He is just one of many roads that lead to God. How can you now refute this thinking using the truth of the Bible you've studied thus far?

4. Paul states in Colossians 2:10 that we are complete in Christ. Jesus alone is all sufficient and entirely adequate to meet our every need. Review Colossians 1:11-21 and record how you are complete in Him.

Vs. 11

Vs. 12

Vs. 13

Vs. 14

Vs. 21

5. How would you explain to someone else what it means to be complete in Christ?

*"The divinity of Jesus is not a dispensable extra that has no significance for our salvation.
On the contrary, our salvation depends on it.
We can be saved only by God Himself."
K. Runia*

Day Two – Circumcised in Him
Read Colossians 2:11-13

1. Small words or phrases in scripture tend to be overlooked, and yet they are often very significant. In verse 11-13, the simple phrases *in Him* and *with Him* point us once again to our completeness in Christ. Look carefully for every instance of these words and record the truths you discover.

2. God established the requirement of circumcision in the Old Testament, beginning with Abraham. Although a bit different, this necessity is also given in the New Testament. Use the chart to record what you learn about each.

| Old Testament | New Testament |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Genesis 17:9-14 | Romans 2:28-29 |
| Deuteronomy 10:16 | Philippians 3:3 |
| | Colossians 2:11 |

a. What similarities and/or differences did you discover from the chart?

3. The false teachers at Colosse taught that physical circumcision was still a necessary ritual for believers. Similarly, some modern religious people still feel that by afflicting their bodies they will be closer to God. Contrast these rituals with the circumcision that Colossians 2:11 says is not made with human hands.

4. Instead of marks on our bodies, what should be the marks of a Christian's commitment to Christ?

1 Corinthians 7:19

Galatians 5:6

Galatians 6:15-18

a. Summarize how your life should be reflecting the fact that Christ has circumcised your heart.

5. Circumcision is a painful procedure that requires cutting away flesh. Likewise, the cutting away of our corrupt nature can be equally as painful. Describe how through Christ a particular sin(s) has been removed from your life and brought you freedom.

Day Three – New Life in Him
Read Colossians 2:11-12

1. Paul uses the term *putting off the body of the sins of the flesh* in Colossians 2:11. This refers to entirely stripping off and casting aside sin as you would a filthy garment. Why was this necessary according to Isaiah 64:6?

2. What promise does Romans 6:6-7 offer concerning the “body of the sin”?

a. What does this mean to you personally?

3. Despite the enormous work that Christ has done in our lives, there will always be areas in need of spiritual surgery. Slowly through Ephesians 4:22-32. Write a prayer of confession regarding those things that need to be cut out of your heart and life.

“No sin is small. No grain of sand is small in the mechanism of a watch.” Jeremy Taylor

4. The New Testament word for baptize has both a literal and figurative meaning. Literally, it means to be dipped or immersed in water. As believers are immersed in water baptism, they announce to the world their union with Jesus. Figuratively, it is through baptism that believers are identified with Jesus. In what additional ways are we identified with Him according to Colossians 2:12?

5. In order to have a better understanding of the language and meaning of Colossians 2:12, let's first look at what the Bible says about literal water baptism. As you read the following verses, make note of who should be baptized and what the requirement is for baptism.

Matthew 28:19

Acts 8:12, 36-38

Acts 16:31-33

a. The actual act of water baptism has deep spiritual implications. What do you learn about the spiritual significance of water baptism?

Romans 6:3-4

Galatians 3:27

It is our hope and prayer that if you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that you have followed Him in water baptism. If you have not, prayerfully consider this outward and most symbolic form of confessing Him as your Lord.

Day Four – The Power of Christ
Read Colossians 2:12

1. Colossians 2:12 tells us that in baptism we are powerfully linked with the death and resurrection of Jesus. Record what else the Bible says about this union.

Ephesians 1:19-20

Ephesians 3:20

Philippians 3:8-10

2. In all three of the previous verses the word *power* is used in connection with the resurrection of Jesus. Isn't it amazing to think that this same power is at work in you? In what way does this truth encourage you? Journal your thoughts.

3. How can the vivid illustration of literal water baptism along with Titus 3:4-6 help us understand what it means to be spiritually buried and raised in Christ?

4. To be baptized in Christ does not merely involve a few cosmetic or superficial changes. Jesus' death and resurrection ensures, that in God's eyes, we become brand new persons altogether. How are we enabled to live this out practically in our daily lives?

Romans 8:5-11

2 Peter 1:3-4

a. How should knowledge of these promises affect your life?

5. Colossians 2:12c tells us that this marvelous work in our lives is accomplished through faith in the working of God. The word used for *faith* means that you are so fully persuaded and confident of God's ability to accomplish what He has said that good works are produced in your life.

a. Are you fully persuaded that God raised Jesus from the dead? Why or why not?

b. After all you have learned, how should your faith affect your actions and lifestyle?

6. The reality of what God has done through Christ Jesus should thrill the heart of every believer! Conclude this day by writing a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonderfully complete work He has done for you. Ask Him to fill you with His mighty power so that you might be a faithful, obedient servant unto Him.

"Baptism signifies that the old Adam in us is to be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and perish with all sins and evil lusts; and that the new man should daily come forth again and rise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

Martin Luther

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