

Colossians 2:9-15

"The Trinity or Vain Philosophies"

10/18/2020

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See 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.

⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having 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. ¹³And 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, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

As we continue our study in Colossians, I don't want us to lose sight of the fact that the main purpose of this letter is to correct the false teaching that had come in to the church. And the correction is coming through the most robust, thorough, powerful and clear explanation of the Lord Jesus Christ, His person and His work.....

We already saw in chapter 1 Paul gave us a class in Christology 101. He told us that Christ is God and pre-eminent and the head over all rule and authority and creator and sustainer and reconciler and more..... In chapter 2, beginning in verse 9, he will give us another lesson as he continues to teach what happened to us when we became believing Christians....

and why wouldn't he?

He said in chapter 2 verse 3 that Christ is God's mystery and in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.... And he is beginning to give us these gold nuggets, this treasure trove of truth about the Lord Jesus..... these truths about the person and work of Christ is the answer to the Christless false teaching.....

And, quite honestly most of the epistles were written in order to instruct or correct errant views, or errant beliefs..... in the book of I Corinthians, I have said before there were multiple behavioral issues that Paul was correcting..... In I Thessalonians, they were confused about the 2nd coming of Christ.....in the book of Galatians, Paul was correcting their fall away from the

gospel of grace to a gospel of works.... They were beginning to believe they needed to keep the Law to be saved....

here in Colossae, they had not lost the gospel.....the concern was not that they were moving toward a works based salvation..... however, the false teachers **had** caused confusion in the church, not concerning how someone comes to faith in Christ..... rather the confusion centers around how one grows in their faith? How one lives out his faith? How one participates in the sanctification process? How one dies to sin and walks in newness of life.....

And, quite honestly, this is as practical to us, 2000 years after the Epistle was written as it was the day it was read in the Colossian church.....Many of you have mentioned to me how much you love the book of Colossians, and I think our love for it has to do with how it seems like it was written yesterday.....and we identify with some of the false ideas we may have embraced earlier in our Christian life that pulled us away from Christ....

And, maybe even today you have found yourself beginning to believe things that seem true that are completely false, and your eyes are opening to how important it is to be rooted in Christ and grounded in the truth of God's Word

All of this is a reminder that God's Word is timeless, and that the problems in the first century are still with us today.... Because we as fallen creatures are not any different than those who lived before us..... or those who will live after us.

Now, to give a short summary of last week's sermon, when you step away from this section of Scripture and view it from 30,000 feet..... when we back up and get a big picture view of what Paul is saying, his entire argument is built around the admonition in verse 4 to not be deluded by plausible arguments..... and then he strengthens his warning in verse 8 which states,

"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."

As I said last week, Paul places these empty, deceitful, Christless man centered philosophies that had crept into the church into two categories that he mentions in this verse.....

First, they are according to human tradition which implies they are full of human, or religious tradition..... so they were outward, somewhat legalistic, and works based.....and, 2ndly, they are according to the elemental spirits of the world, which implies that these Christless philosophies had a spiritual element to them, as well.....

I think in modern terms, it may have been a cross between a works based legalistic phariseism, and a self righteous moralism that sought spiritual manifestations..... We went over this in greater detail last week....so I won't go over this again....

For our purposes, I am going to label these as legalism and mysticism...

The reason why I think this can be broken down in these two categories is because Paul gives an example of the man made, human, religious traditions in verse 16.....

"Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath."

then an example of the elemental principles in verse 18....

"¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind."

And, the example I gave you from my own personal life in regards to the man made traditions was that I used to believe that fasting would give me power in preaching or success in my endeavors.... And why wouldn't it? God would see my self denial, my dedication to Him and bless my efforts..... And, of course that is not only not true... it is also, as verse 9 states, "Not according to Christ."

The 2nd example I gave, this time regarding this mysticism or seeking spiritual manifestations was my desire during the height of the charismatic movement to have a spiritual experience..... I actually was told that if I said halleluah over and over when I was praying, I would speak in tongues....it did not happen, but I sought it..... I wanted an experience... .. I thought I needed something more to aid or help me in my Christian life.... This, too was not according to Christ.

Paul's conclusion in verse 23 shows that neither phariseeical legalism or any sort of seeking spiritual manifestations does anything to promote godliness.... Notice Paul's final conclusion in verse 23 of chapter 2

"These (and notice these are in reference to the elemental principles mentioned again in verse 20..... the these also include the human precepts and teachings that are mentioned again in verse 22...; which confirms that this is what he has been talking about for the entire chapter)

..... These (the phariseeical legalism, and seeking spiritual manifestations) have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh." When we come to these verses, we will deal with them in greater detail.....

But just looking at the big picture from 30,000 feet, we can say that this verse is Paul's conclusion as to why all the various philosophies, ideas, human traditions and unbiblical, spiritual experiences are wrong, worthless, unhelpful, and really ruinous.....

this is why Paul is pointing them and directing them back to Christ. They have no value in stopping the indulgences of the flesh.... No spiritual value whatsoever....

When you look at the whole context of the book.... It appears that these men and women are true Christian believers, and, like us, they are struggling with sin, and victory is either not coming or not coming fast enough.... or it seems like it will never come at all.....and because of that, there are things that these false teachers are saying that are sounding pretty good....

they sound reasonable, they sound plausible.....but at the end of the day, they will not give freedom, they will not give victory..... they will not help you in your battle against sin.....they will actually take you captive, make you a prisoner..... and will be powerless over your sinful, fleshly desires.....and they will pull you not toward Christ, but away from Christ..

And, from verses 9 through 15, Paul takes us back to school to continue his theological discussion about Christ, and here Paul gives some of the key reasons why these deceitful philosophies will never help you and never compare to all that God has done for you in Christ....

Christ is sufficient for salvation, and when you understand this treasure trove of wisdom and knowledge you will see that He is sufficient for sanctification, as well..... that stopping the indulgences of the flesh is not something that you can do by your own self effort.... Or by some spiritual experience..... rather it has already been done for you through the power and the work of the Trinity.....

What we will see from this section is that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have filled you, circumcised you, and raised you from the dead.....

And Paul is literally comparing the powerful work of the Godhead in salvation with the vain philosophies of man made traditions and mystical experiences.... And, of course, there is no comparison...

If you like to take notes, my 3 easy to follow pointsthere is no need for these vain philosophies.... First, because verse 10 confirms you are filled by the Holy Spirit; second, because verse 11 tells you that you have been circumcised by Christ, and 3rd because verse 12 states because God has raised you from the dead.....

1, filled with the Spirit. Two, circumcised by Christ, and 3rd because God raised you from the dead.....

This is an amazing behind the scenes look at the work of the Trinity in salvation..... and will demonstrate why there is no need for man made, man centered legalism, or seeking out a spiritual experience or mysticism.....

First of all, because Christ is God and he dwells in you..... and we know from John 15 and other portions of the New Testament that God and Christ dwell in you by His Spirit.....And Paul's reference to being "filled in Him" is a reference to the 3rd person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit filling the life of a believer at salvation..

I mentioned this last Sunday....and I probably should mention it every Sunday....Paul declares in verse 9 that the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily in Christ.... and then verse 10 states, "you have been filled in Him"What he is simply saying is, "Jesus Christ is God and he dwells in me."

We should say it together... "Jesus Christ is God and he dwells in me."

I know it doesn't always look like it..... I know it does not feel like it.... But this is true; based on the authority of God's Word..... Jesus Christ is God, and right now, if you are a believing Christian, he lives in you.....

the phrase filled up means we are complete or filled full or in a state of fullness in Christ....it means he dwells in us or abides in us, again, by His Spirit.....and the phrase "who is the head over all rule and authority" shows both his superiority over the angels that these men and women were beginning to worship.... And that all of our marching orders come from Him..... through His Word, the Bible...

..... The moment of your conversion, the spirit of God took residence in you..... In II Corin 1:22, Paul wrote, "who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." And in Ephesians 3:16, "he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being." You are filled in Christ, all of Christ, all of God resides in you by the Spirit of God.....

And, the Spirit of God living in you means that the power of God is available to you.....That the command that Paul gives to walk in Christ is possible to obey because the Spirit of God resides in you; so, He directs, leads, and guides you through His Word.....

Genuine victory over our sinful, fleshly indulgences comes through the Spirit of God working in and through us..... as we obey his word and keep in step with his commands.....

many of you have had the experience of being tempted to sin..... and the overwhelming sense of the Spirit of God saying, NO! "Don't go there." "Turn it off." "don't respond in anger..."

And, often times, the Word of God begins circulating in your mind.... "Flee youthful lusts." "Do not let the sun go down on your anger." "Do not lie." "Obey your parents." "Be kind, tender hearted..." and when you succumb to temptation and sin.... The Spirit of God still works in your life by convicting you, moving you to confess your sin to God, then to those you sin against....

At least it should.....

Because he is in you, when you sin, in a sense, "He sins with you" what you see, he sees with you..... what you touch, he touches with you.... what you say, he says with you.....your attitudes are his attitudes.....

this is the argument that Paul uses in I Corinthians 6, when he is commanded those in the church to flee immorality.....turn with me to I Corinthians 6, I will read from verse 15... beloved, the church at Corinth had some real issues..... Some in the church did not see anything wrong with going to the local temple and be joined to the temple prostitutes..... and Paul corrects their thinking by showing that Christ is in them by the Spirit of God and when they join with a prostitute, they are joining Christ to that prostitute.....notice verse 15....

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him”

What he is saying is that since you are in Christ, and Christ is in you.... Or you are joined to the Lord and you are one Spirit with him.... So when you are immoral, if you are joined to someone other than you wife..... you are bringing Christ with you into the immorality....because He dwells in you.....this is why verse 18 says,

“¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

The Holy Spirit resides in your body..... He owns you.... You don't even own yourself any more.....so, don't do anything with it that the Holy Spirit would not approve of.....

Do you see that the fact that since Christ is God and He is in you, that this truth alone should not only give you the desire to live in purity..... but since he lives in you, you also have the power to live in purity..... all the more reason, you do not need to go down the paths of empty philosophy of man made traditions, and empty spiritual experiences....they have no power to help..... only Christ does...

the truth about Christ being God is not new to us, he made the same statement back in chapter 1 verse 15 and 16 when he said

Jesus is the image of the invisible God

that Jesus created all things

Jesus rules all things;

then in verse 17, he sustains all the things he created....

then in verse 19 Paul concludes "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."

Add all that to the phrase we are looking at in chapter 2 verse 9, "For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" It is impossible to refute the truth that Jesus and God the Father are the same in substance and equal in power and glory.....He was God before He came to earth..... He was god while in a human body..... and he is God now in His resurrected body.....

And, the fact that the fullness of the deity dwells bodily in Christ means exactly what Jesus told Phillip in John 14.... "when you see Jesus, you see the Father."

Think for a moment of the condescension... .think of the humiliation.... Think of what the God of the universe did in order for you and I to understand who He is and what He has done for us in salvation....

We went over part of this on Wednesday looking at Jesus the suffering servant in Isaiah 52 and 53..... God became man.... God came to earth..... God took on the form of a servant.....John 1 tells us he came to his own and his own did not receive him... Isaiah 53 tells us he was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief..

He came to and for sinners... He came to and for those who despise Him... He came His enemies.... Those who are hostile toward Him.... This is designed for you and I to see his love, see his mercy, his kindness, his grace..... God demonstrated His love toward us... in that while we were yet sinners Christ came and died for us....

Beloved the man made, rule based legalism will never create genuine holiness.... but the Spirit of God residing in you directing you, leading you guiding you, convicting you.... moves you to love Christ for all He has done for you..... and subsequently live a life that is pleasing to Him....
... We need more of Christ....

Not only does the Spirit reside in you, notice, 2ndly, that you have no need for these vain philosophies because according to verse 11, Christ has circumcised you..... "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."

Beloved, this is so important.....this is one of those behind the scenes looks at what happened to you when you became a believer.....When you trusted Christ, an internal change took place...

And, the problem is that these believers haven't understood this..... and, maybe you have not either.....they are having trouble stopping the indulgences of their flesh.....and the false teachers are trying to give them practical ideas on what to do to have victory..... and nothing is helping.....

but, something happened at salvation to their flesh or their sinful desires that will also help in their battle with sin..... "You were circumcised by the circumcision of Christ.... He put off the body of flesh." The word put off means to "undress or to strip or disrobe." It has the idea of rendering it powerless.... It is actually the same word used in verse 15 where it is translated disarm.... At salvation, Christ disarmed our flesh, made our flesh powerless through circumcision....

Our sin nature was not removed..... but we have a new heart and new desires, so sin no longer reigns over us....

Now, we know he is not talking about physical circumcision, here..... as I said before, the issues in this church are completely different than what took place in Galatia.....We know this is not about physical circumcision because Paul described it as a circumcision made without hands, and one that is of or Christ. So what does he mean?

If physical circumcision is about removing a part of flesh that literally withers up and dies.....Paul, then, is talking about an inward circumcision that removes the body of sinful flesh from the heart of the sinner that withers up and dies, as well.....

We know he is not saying that when you become a Christian that we never sin or we have our sin nature taken away..... but what he is saying is that the circumcision of Christ gives us the power to as Romans 6:12 states, "for us to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

an inward circumcision by Christ frees us from the power and pull of our sinful flesh, so we have the power to say no to sin and yes to righteousness....

Throughout the Old Testament, circumcision was the outward sign and seal that one belonged to the nation of Israel.....It was a mark of being set apart from the world, a mark of ownership, a mark of being part of the nation of Israel.....The circumcision of Christ is the inward sign and seal that one belongs to Christ, one is set apart for Christ, one is owned by and belongs to Christ and is part of the New Covenant family.....

All male Israelites were required to be circumcised on the 8th day..... and this is what confirmed that they were in fact Jews..... this was a solely Jewish custom,

However, the problem with physical circumcision was that it did not bring about obedience, and it did not bring about faith..... and it did not mean that you were truly part of the covenant family, even though you were Jewish, even though you were circumcised..... and when the Jews would claim to be part of God's chosen people, even though they lived hypocritical lives, the prophets would rebuke Israel for their stubborn refusal to obey God, and would declare that they need an inward circumcision not an outward one.

Jeremiah 4:4,

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD;
remove the foreskin of your hearts,
O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem;

Deuteronomy 30:6

"And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

This idea of one day having a circumcised heart or a new heart, continued throughout the Old Testament. Go ahead and turn to Ezekiel 36....this is a real important Old Testament passage that you need to be aware of..... here, God speaks through the prophet Ezekiel to promise that a day would come when God would pour His Spirit on mankind, and in the process, regenerate or circumcise our hard hearts.....

Ezekiel 36:26 states, "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. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

This is the kind of circumcision that Paul is talking about here..... not a physical circumcision, rather a spiritual one, where God removed the hard, stony heart, symbolizing a heart circumcision and gave a heart of flesh..... a soft heart, an obedient heart, a heart that would keep God's statutes and commands.... because His spirit now resides in believers.....

So, in your struggle with sin, you do not need to be subject to legalism..... you do not need to hold to any Jewish ceremonialism..... nor will any form of mysticism help you in your battle with your fleshly indulgences.....Christ has circumcised you..... he removed your hard stony heart and gave you a heart of flesh by placing His Spirit in you so that you have new desires and new aspirations to obey His word and keep his commands.....

beloved, it is only when this “body of flesh” has been put off that you and I have the power to walk in newness of life....and, since this circumcision is outside of you....and we are told that it is done by Christ without hands..... Then, it is supernatural..... it is beyond what you can do for yourself..... and it is permanent.....

In salvation, the desire to live for yourself, to please yourself, to fulfill your own selfish desires all that the flesh represents has been cut off by Christ,In salvation, the pull and draw toward fleshly indulgences has been cut off by Christ, so you do not need legalism or mysticism to help you....

Before I come to our third and final point, let me pause and ask how are you doing? I just said that if you are a believing Christian, the Spirit of God lives in you.... And this should give you both the desire to obey and the power to obey.....

Along with that your heart has been circumcised by Jesus Christ..... so the old sinful things that used to characterize your life..... the things you used to do..... the pull and the draw toward the works of the flesh has been cut off..... Paul gives a list of some the works of the flesh in Galatians 5

“sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (those 3 words would include pornography)” These 3 seem to be talking about personal sins..... then he goes on and states the works of the flesh include, “enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy,” these seem to be talking about community sins, how we behave toward others.... And I would add self righteousness, having a superior attitude toward others, and a complete self centered ness.....

The circumcision of Christ has cut off the pull and draw toward your previous desires to fulfill your flesh.....so as a Christian believer you will live in personal purity, and live in corporate harmony.....

The Combination of these two powerful, supernatural works in your life has made you a new creature in Christ.... Being in Christ has delivered you from the penalty of sin.... And right now, because of the the Holy Spirit and the circumcision of Christ, you are **being delivered** power of sin.....

So, you have both the desire and the power to be a more kind, attentive, and sensitive husband.... A more gracious wife..... a more obedient child..... a better neighbor.... A better employee.... And a more faithful church member... you can't help yourself.... Christ is in you....

So, let me ask..... Are you walking in newness of life? Has salvation made a difference in your life?

We are not talking about perfection, but a complete and obvious change.....I hope you can say with me.....

“I am not what I want to be..... I still feel like I fall short..... I am not what I will be.... I know one day I will be perfect in glory.....but by the grace of God, I certainly am not what I used to be..... Christ is conforming me by His Spirit....

So, we have no need for these vain philosophies because the Holy Spirit lives or abides or dwells in us; and because the Lord Jesus he has circumcised our hearts..... Thirdly, notice these vain philosophies are useless because according to verse 12 and 13, God the Father raised us from the dead....or made us alive together with him..... Let me read verse 12 and 13 again.

“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. ¹³And 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,¹”

Paul told them that the Holy Spirit is now indwelling them..... he told them that the Lord Jesus Christ has circumcised them.....Now, he wants them to know they have no reason to follow vain philosophies because of the powerful and complete work of God Almighty..... Again, this is one of the most wonderful trinitarian passages in the New Testament.....

Notice first in verse 13 that they are dead in their sins.....They have been told the predicament they were in before they became Christians over and over and over in chapter 1..... alienated, hostile to God..... unfit for His kingdom, living in darkness.. here Paul just defines it as being dead in verse 13..... “And you who were dead in your trespasses or dead in your sin”.....

One of the most horrific consequences of sin that happened in the garden of Eden is that God told Adam, “the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.” And, not only do we die physically, and, not only will we face an eternal death in hell a part from Christ saving us..... we are also “walking dead men, or walking dead women”

Before we were Christians.... And those you know who are not Christians..... we were walking around..... doing whatever, and we look alive, but really are dead.....

As Ephesians 2 tells us we are dead in our sin, following Satan’s plan and schemes, carrying out the desires of our body, and under the wrath of God like the rest of Mankind...

and the phrase, “uncircumcision of your flesh” gives us the scope of our deadness, or the scope of our sin.....It is complete because it comes from within.. in comes from our uncircumsised

1 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:12–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

hearts..... Jesus reminds us in Mark 7 that all of our evil thoughts come from within and defile us..... so we are dead....

But, notice, 2ndly, that Paul highlights, not just our deadness..... rather, he makes sure we know that we are now alive..... He states it 2 times in two verses....verse 12, “we are raised with Him.....” and in verse 13, we are “made us alive together with him.”

There is life in the Son.... Christ is the way, the truth and the life..... He gives abundant life and eternal life....our being raised with him brings us out of our dead condition and truly, as a believer you live life and you see life from a whole different perspective.... You were dead and now you are alive...

But, thirdly, what Paul wants us to understand more than anything else is that our resurrection or being made alive or coming out of our deadness to life is something just as spectacular, just as powerful, just as miraculous as what God did when he raised Jesus from the dead....

Verse 12 states that we have been raised with him through faith in the “powerful working of God who raised Him (Jesus) from the dead.”

And, beloved, this is where we have to pause..... we don't think about these things often enough or deep enough.....

Jesus Christ died physically and literally on a cross..... his corpse was laid in a tomb..... with a Rock rolled in front so it was impenetrable..... And God raised Jesus from the dead..... God brought him to new life.... God made Him alive.... Never to die again..... and the power that he exhibited in raising Jesus is the same power that he displayed when He made you alive in Christ..... when he brought you from death to life....when he made you a new creature in Christ.....

What this text is saying is that you have all the power you need in you..... by His Spirit, because of what Christ has done, because of the power of the flesh being cut off, and because of the power of the Father..... you can walk faithfully..... you do not need anything else....

To be consistent with our text, since the reference to circumcision was to a spiritual circumcision, the reference here to baptism is a spiritual one, as well..... this does not undermine the importance and the command to be baptized..... outward baptism symbolizes or is a picture of exactly what is taking place here..... you are buried with him in the likeness of his death and raised with him in the likeness of His resurrection..... the old self is buried, and you are raised to walk in newness of life.....

if you are a genuine believer and have not been baptized, you have not made this public confession and demonstration of your new life in Christ, then you are disobedient to the clear commands of Christ; and let me encourage you to be baptized

what this spiritual baptism is signifying is that when you turned from your sin and put your faith and trust in Christ to save you..... you died.....you died to sin, you died to self, and you died to unrighteousness....and you were buried with him..... in the grave with him.....this is another assurance like being circumcised by Christ that your old self is dead.,.....but you were also raised with Him..... brought to new life in Him....

and it is in this new life as new creatures in Christ that we continue to conform to His image, and we do have the power to say no to the indulgences of the flesh.....

Now, let me close with the one thing that I have neglected to say until now that gives us the key to accessing all these blessings in Christ.....

The blessing or the benefits are amazing!

Verse 10, you have been filled in Him;

Verse 11, you have been circumcised by Him

Verse 12, you were buried with him in baptism

Verse 12, you were raised with him

verse 13, you were made alive together with him

and I can't wait to come back next week because the rest of the passage tells us what happened on the cross.....

Have you noticed what key word I have neglected to point out? How does all this take place? Verse 12, "through faith in the powerful working of God who raised him from the dead."

To possess all these benefits, you must believe.... You must trust.....You must have faith in the truth that you are a great sinner, Christ is a great Savior.....and he lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death and on the 3rd day, he rose from the dead.... Your belief and trust and faith in Him will move you to repent or turn from your sin... and in a miraculous, supernatural, mysterious way you will be filled with his Spirit, circumcised by Christ, and buried and brought to new life through the power of God...

and you will continue to have faith in the powerful working of God to help you in the Christian life

so you will never need to go down those paths of legalistic phariseeism, or seeking spiritual experieinces.... In Christ, you have everything you need for life and godliness.....

Mine the treasures of His Word to find Him..... show up for church to discover more about who He is.... To sing to Him and about Him.....

You need Christ..... He will help you.... He will guide you..... He will sanctify you..... He will eventually glorify you.....

Let's pray