

Colossians 2:13-15

"Behind the scenes Benefits of Christ"

10/25/2020

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

⁸ 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. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Let No One Disqualify You

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. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 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, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the **elemental spirits of the world**, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts and teachings?** ²³ These 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.

What happened to you and I at salvation is absolutely unbelievable....and the more you and I understand what happened to us when we went from darkness to light, from death to life.... the more able we will be to live the Christian life in a manner that is pleasing to God.... The Colossians, we have discovered, have had a desire to walk faithfully.... But were struggling, and

since they were struggling, they became susceptible to false teachers coming in and offering their Christless teaching to help them overcome sin.....

Paul has set forth a contrast as to where true freedom in Christ comes from and what these false teachers are claiming that true freedom comes from..... And, I keep going over some of the same material largely because if we do not see this as a unit where thoughts, ideas, and concepts build upon each other, then we will miss the whole point.

I said last week, that Paul is leading us toward his conclusion in verse 23..... where the last phrase is, "but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh." And, the "they" he is referring to are the elemental spirits in verse 20, and the human precepts and teaching in verse 22. We have defined those as mysticism and legalism.....

And and, since both the human traditions and elemental spirits were mentioned as a definition of empty and deceitful philosophies way back in verse 8, we can safely say this entire section of scripture is an explanation by Paul as to why these empty, vain philosophies....or these religious traditions and spiritual experiences.....or legalism and mysticism

they are of no help, of no use..... and are in fact powerless to help us become more Christlike, powerless to help us become become more holy, powerless to help us grow in sanctification...and powerless to aid us in our struggle against sin....

And, as we continue on in the letter, it is very clear that these 1st century believers were struggling with sin, they **did** want victory over their sin, they **wanted** to walk like Christ and live for Christ..... and this is why these false teachers made in roads into the church....

Like the experience I had as a new or young believer.... I wanted more of God, and I was susceptible to seeking an additional spiritual experience..... I wanted power in my preaching, so I thought fasting or self denial would be the trick....

One of Satan's tactics is that he takes our desires, which often times are God honoring desires.... and he offers a solution that is sinful and wrong.... isn't that what he did to Jesus in the garden?

Jesus was hungry, nothing wrong with a desire for food.... But to use his power to make stones into bread, would have been wrong..... Jesus had a desire to make Himself known as the Messiah, but to jump from the temple and be protected by angels would have been a sinful way to go about it...

And, here, the desire to not satisfy their fleshly indulgences was the right desire.... But the false teachers had come in and said, you can conquer your flesh by self effort.... By self denial.... By

worshipping angels.... By spiritual experiences..... You can do it on your own..... and Paul was shouting.... “NO.....”

you can have victory, you can walk faithfully, you can live in purity , you can grow in the Christian life.....not because of legalism, mysticism, or self effort....., rather because of what the Trinity has already done for you. You just have to understand it, believe it, and walk in it....

What chapter 2 is telling us is that the more they understand what happened to them, the better able they will be to withstand the errors that the false teachers are propagating.....It is learning, understanding and applying what is true, so we can discern and detect what is false.....

So far, I have not given very many concrete examples of man made traditions mentioned in verse 16..... or the elemental spirits mentioned in verse 18, but next week, we will break those down a little further with some 21st century examples..... what we want to do today is continue where we left off last week where we saw Paul mention many of the benefits we have in Christ..... and he places those up and against what these false teachers are saying that will help you in your Christian life.....

And, as I said last week, The blessing or the benefits are amazing!

In Verse 10, you have been filled in Him by the Holy Spirit

Remember, “Jesus Christ is God and He lives in me!” say it...

Verse 11, you have been circumcised by the Lord Jesus Christ... the power of your fleshly desires has been cut off....

Verse 12, you were buried with him in baptism

Verse 12 and 13, you were raised and you were made alive together with him by the power of God the Father.....

You have been made new by the trinitarian power of God..... and since He is the One who worked in and through you to fill you, live in you, circumcise you or give you a new heart, and raise you to new life..... you do not need and you will never need any man made traditions or any additional spiritual experiences in order for you to walk faithfully.....

Rather, you have to believe by faith that all of this is yours.... This miraculous, supernatural, amazing thing happened to you when you trusted Christ... and as a new creature he has given you the desire and the power to say no to sin and yes to righteousness....

And the problem I had last week, is I just ran out of time..... because we have not finished all the benefits or blessing listed in this chapter that happened to you when you trusted Christ by faith.....

Let's go back to chapter 2 verse 13.....

“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, 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. ¹⁶”

Remember you were dead in your sins, this is the state you were in when you were born..... We are all walking dead men or walking dead women.... This is our the natural state we are born into and why we need to be born again.....

and God made you alive, he brought you to new lifeyou are a new creature, the old has passed away, all things have become new.....

And, as we finish out this section, this newness of life, you will see, promises two things.... One, forgiveness, it is mentioned in verse 13, and two victory, which is mentioned in verse 15....and what we will see in a moment is that both forgiveness and victory are ours as a result of the cross of the Lord Jesus....

Forgiveness is so important and so significant that Paul states it here for the 2nd time.....You may remember when we were looking at Colossians 1 verses 12-14 when we saw that we who were unqualified, God qualified us for an inheritance with the saints..... we, who under the domain and power of darkness were delivered from it.... And we who had no right, no status, and no reason to be part of His kingdom... we were transferred into the kingdom of Christ....and, then Paul ended verse 14 of chapter 1 with..... “in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.”

He redeemed us by purchasing us through his death on the cross....and in redemption comes forgiveness

We cannot enter His kingdom without forgiveness.... .we cannot enter his presence without forgiveness..... this definition of this word forgiven is based on the gracious attitude of an individual.... We are forgiven based on God's gracious attitude to us..... it is his grace, not our individual merit, not our goodness, not our works.....that gives us forgiveness...

1 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:13–15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Of course, it is the doctrine of justification that brings about our forgiveness.....Justification is the free act of God pardoning or forgiving sinners, accepting them as just or blameless based on the righteousness of Christ.... When we repent of our sin and trust in the death of Christ to save us from our sin, Christ's righteousness is credited to our account, so we stand holy before God, not based on our works or merit, but based on the perfect life of Christ who lived and died as our substitute....

Forgiveness brings us before Him unblemished, unstained, pure, clean, and righteous.....no guilt...as the Gettys write in "In Christ Alone" No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me...."

I don't think we talk about the wonder and beauty of forgiveness often as we should..... no guilt for your past sins.... And continued forgiveness for your present and future sins..... that does not mean you can go and do anything you want..... if you understand salvation, you won't want to go and out and continue in sin....it will grieve you.... Forgiveness is not a license to allow you to sin..... rather it is motivation to keep you from sinning....

That woman who was caught in the act of adultery when Jesus came and rescued her from her accusers.....and, then did not condemn or accuse her either..... he commanded her , "to go and sin no more..." there was a new desire in her soul to live obediently.... It did not give her the freedom to continue in her adultery..

The woman at Simon the pharisees house who was weeping over and kissing Jesus feet and wiping them with her hair was forgiven.... The paralytic who was brought down through the roof was forgiven....and the natural expectation was that they would now follow Christ faithfully....

If you have trusted Christ to save you.....You have been forgiven.....not because I said it..... not because a priest said it.... You are forgiven because God said it in His word....Those who believe in Christ death and resurrection... who are brought to new life in Christ by faith have been forgiven all their trespasses..... What joy! What freedom! What peace?

Have you been? Can you say with the writer of It is well with my soul, "My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought,..... my sin, not in part but the whole..... was nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, it is well, it is well with my soul."

You do not have to live this life with the burden of sin, guilt and despair on your back..... admit you are a sinner, give up your sin, and believe on the Lord Jesus..... then you will be able to sing....."Bearing shame and scoffing Rude, in my place condemned he stood..... sealed by pardon with his blood.... Hallelujah, what a Savior."

And, don't miss the difference in the pronoun when Paul mentions forgiveness....he shifts from talking to them using the pronoun "you" you were filled..... you were circumcised..... you were raised..... now he says He has forgiven "**us**" all our trespasses.....

There is no doubt, as Paul is writing this, and exhorting them to understand all that God has done for them in Christ, he is still overwhelmed by the forgiveness he has received... He tells Timothy he is the chiefest of sinners.....He never forgot what He was forgiven from.....He murdered Christians.... He persecuted the church of Christ, and God graciously redeemed Him.... Graciously forgave him.....

and to the very day he is writing this, he surely was still grateful for the forgiveness he had in Christ.....So, he says, "we are forgiven.....so, we are clean, we are unblemished, and we stand in Christ righteousness..... as the hymn states, "faultless, we stand, before his throne...."

and then he tells us how this transaction took place in verse 14

and "by canceling the record of debt that stood against **us (notice us again, he is including himself)** with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ²"

the King James states it this way, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;³"

" Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances"

I bring the King James up because the record of debt or the ordinances that are against us has the idea that you wrote it yourself..... it was in your own handwriting..... you are the one who added to your own record of debt.....Every sin you have committed, in a sense has been kept on a ledger..... In your handwriting.... Your list is personal....

Or in today's language.....kept on a spread sheet.....and the very list that you created on your own.... in your handwriting..... the text states that it stands against you..... or it is contrary to you.... Or literally it is hostile toward you.

Sin, when you commit it, it is enjoyable, pleasurable, it is temporarily fulfilling..... but then it stands back against you and is hostile toward you... it is not your friend... it harms you and hurts you.....and stands against you.... And accuses you.....

I remember hearing Chuck Swindol illustrate this when he told the story of a couple of individuals who were in Mexico, who picked up what they thought was a cute, helpless stray

2 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

3 [The Holy Bible: King James Version](#). (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Col 2:14). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

dog..... they wanted to bring it back to the states, but knew the dog would not make it through customs.... So they hid it.... It was quiet and seemed weak..... But cute..... so they kept it in a carry on bag at their feet....

Once they got to the states, they took it to the vet, because it was so weak and helpless.....and they were shocked to find out they had smuggled a very large and very sick rat out of Mexico illegally....which, now, I am sure made them go through shots and quarantine and, I am sure the rat was destroyed....

What first looked cute and fun ended up in a sense standing against them..... much like the sins on your ledger that become contrary to you, hostile toward you..... and, they will harm you.

When you watch the Christmas Carol and the ghost of Marley comes back to Scrooge in horrible chains because of the penalty of His sin and misery..... and Scrooge asks why his chains were so long, Marley replies that “he made them link by link.” He did it on his own, one sin, one violation, one form of disobedience at time.... Written on his ledger in his own hand writing....

and he went on to tell him that Scrooges chain was longer that his 7 years ago, and Scrooge has had 7 years to make it even longer..... forging it on his own.... By his words, his actions, his attitudes,

the record of debt that is against us is largely do to not keeping the demands of the entire law..... and with each infraction....

Remember our catechism question..... “what does the law of God require?” Answer: Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience.”

Turn with me to Galatians 3 and notice verse 10... this is exactly what Paul tells the Galatians.....

“For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”⁴”

Do you see how all encompassing this is?

“Cursed be everyone” (every person who has ever lived)

“who does not abide by all things written in the book of law” (every law in the entire bible)

“and do them” (implies perfect obedience of every all all the time).

4 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ga 3:10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

You and I, everyone who has ever existed on the planet are required to obey every law that God has for us and we are required to obey all the time.

“personal, perfect, perpetual obedience” and you have not and cannot.....

and each and every time you sin, each and every time you break the law, the record of debt against God gets larger and larger..... it is just like the person in the parable who owed the king 10,000 talents..... one talent is equivalent to 20 years wages..... 10,000 talents would be equivalent to a working man working 5,000 lifetimes to pay his debt..... or somewhere between 6 and 20 billion dollars..... the record of debt against you is more than you could ever, ever pay.....

But the horrific part is that the record was tallied by you.....you created it... it is in your hand writing...

Paul goes on to say that when you have a record against you like that, there are legal demands in order to satisfy the debt, right? These legal demands are mentioned in verse 14..... Fees... fines.....punishments..... or to use the language of the New Testament.... Wages..... The wages of sin is death..... The soul that sins, it shall die.....

Romans 2:8, “but for those who do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”⁵

Paul wants these Colossian believers to know that they made their chain, their ledger, their spread sheet..... link by link, and prior to their salvation in Christ, the penalty, the legal demands was eternal punishment, eternal wrath in hell..... this is the predicament, isn't it?

so what happen?

“This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

There is no more vivid picture of imputation..... The word imputation or impute means to reckon or give or place upon someone the blessing or curse or debt of another..... we usually use the word when we say that Adam's sin was imputed or placed upon on all of mankind.... And it is correct to use it that way.... We are sinners because Adam sinned...his sin was places upon us...

However, we cannot miss the fact that by faith, all of our sin is imputed or placed upon Christ when he became our sin bearer.... II Corinthians 5:21 states that “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”⁶ Jesus

5 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 2:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

6 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (2 Co 5:21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

knew no sin but was made sin.... Our sin was imputed upon Him....so we might become the righteousness of God...

And when you go back to Colossians 2:14 and see that the ledger or spread sheet of sin that was tallied or kept track of by our own hand..... That that ledger was nailed to the cross.... There really is a play on words here.....

who was nailed to the cross? Jesus

Who became sin for us? Jesus.....

Jesus became sin for us....Jesus took on our ledger.....Jesus took the record of debt that stood against us..... with all it's demands of death, wrath, hell and punishment..... Jesus took all of that upon himself,

and, then He is nailed to the cross.....It is not our ledger that hung and died as a mediator.....it is Christ

All of our sin is placed on Him, he becomes a curseas he suffers and dies for us....galatians tells us that cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree..

... Isaiah 53

But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all. ⁷

This is how he canceled the record of debt.... This is how we receive forgiveness..... this is why we are made alive in Him... the record of debt that stood against us with all it's punishments and penalties was placed upon God's perfect and innocent dear son.....

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Is 53:5–6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

And God almighty nailed Him..... the Father nailed His son to the cross....He suffered the wrath you deserve.... So you can receive all his righteousness which you don't deserve....

And because of his substitutionary atonement, our debt has been canceled... our slate is wiped clean.... We are forgiven....

Beloved, this truth alone should move us to such a place of humble thanksgiving..... you were dead and now alive..... guilty and now forgiven..... you had a debt you could never pay, and you are now free....You are free..... but the cost of your freedom was that the perfect son of God became sin, then became a sacrifice for you and me...

Do you understand that you owed God a debt that you could never, ever pay.....and that the only thing you deserved was just punishment and wrath for not only the fact that you were born in sin, but you continued to heap more and more sin upon your record of debt..... you could never pay a dime on it.... it just increased and increased and increased.....

.....God took your sin, placed it upon his son..... and he took his son and nailed him to a cross.....and when you believed on Him.....you are forgiven..... and your record of debt has been wiped clean.....

Beloved, is there any philosophy out there that can do this? any human tradition..... is there spiritual experience out there where you can obtain forgiveness? can living a life of self denial do anything for you?

NO.....

when you fully grasp all Christ has done and you take a sheet of paper, and you place what he has done on one side of the page..... then place the theology of these false teachers on the other side of the page..... and look carefully at what will help you become more Christ like? What will help you live a victorious Christian life? What will free you from your sin?

Isn't the obvious answer is that Christ is sufficient for these things because He is God and He lives in me..... and my fleshly desire to sin has been cut off, and I have been buried with Christ and raised with Him to walk in newness of life, and he has forgiven me..... and.... And.... And.... He first became sin for me..... then was nailed to the cross for me, taking on the curse I deserve.....

and I owe him everything.... it should move us to humble, grateful thanksgiving..... and give us a desire to worship the only mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus...

and, if that is not enough, Paul has left us with one more reason why Christ is sufficient.....and it is because according to verse 15," he has He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. ⁸"

When Christ died and rose again, something took place in the heavenlies or something took place in the cosmos that we didn't see.....again, it was behind scenes..... and though we did not see it, we benefit from it.....

there has been a spiritual battle going on between God and these demonic rulers and authorities or principalities and powers since before the garden of Eden.....

.and in Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that one day someone born from a woman would crush the head of the serpent.... or deliver Satan a death blow....

We know that person who would deliver Satan a death blow is and was the Lord Jesus Christ.....

The simple fact that Jesus would deliver a death blow would indicate a spiritual battle taking place.....When you read the gospels, in particular, you see this battle being played out in at least 3 ways..... When God came into the world in human form, Satan saw this as his chance to thwart God's plans and have his way.....

One of the ways Satan exhibited His power was through the many, many people who were demon possessed in the first century.... The one that comes to mind right away is the one in Mark 5, where Jesus is confronted with a Demon possessed man who no one can subdue, no one can chain.... He spends night and day among the tombs.....

Remember, when Jesus asked the demon what his name was, he said, "my name is legion, for we are many." Jesus eventually casts the demon into a herd of pigs and 2,000 pigs plunged to off a cliff to their death.... There was a spiritual battle going on in the first century of epic proportions... Jesus confronted and cast out demons from individuals throughout his ministry....

Secondly, you also see this cosmic battle through the way the Devil worked in and through people.... Satan first tried to destroy Jesus through evil King Herod when he killed all the Bethlehem babies 2 and under....hoping he would have killed the One who was born to be king of the Jews.....

Satan tried to work through Peter, when Peter tried to keep Him from going to the cross.... remember, Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan."

Satan entered Judas and gave Christ up to be crucified.....

⁸ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Col 2:15). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

These were more indirect attacks, but Satan was using any means possible to stop Christ...

He also attacked Christ directly through temptations... Jesus was tempted in the wilderness to make stones become bread, to jump off the top of the temple, and to bow down and serve Satan..... He was tempted in the garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked the Father if it was possible for the cup of suffering to be removed.....

Jesus was tempted, even on the final moments on the cross, when he was mocked and reviled and people shouted, "he saved others, he can't even save Himself.... Come down from the cross and we will believe in you."

And, when Jesus finally died, surely Satan thought he had his way..... surely Satan thought he had won.....

but he did not win..... he lost.....

through Christ's death and through his subsequent resurrection, Paul tells us that Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities, which are satanic, spiritual, demonic powers and he put them to open shame.....

Through the resurrection, Christ won.....

he conquered sin, he conquered death and he conquered Satan and all of his hosts of demons.... so he is now a defeated foe.....waiting for his final judgment.....

The word disarmed means, "to strip away from." It referred to taking weapons from dead soldiers" Satan has been disarmed.... Stripped of his heavy artillery....His power had been minimized

...and the phrase put them to open shame means they were publicly disgraced or humiliated...

And why are they put to open shame? Because "He triumphed over them." This was the word used when a king came back from a conquest in battle, and all the prisoners of war were with him..... bound, shackled, and walking behind the victorious King and His army..... those who were defeated and brought back as disarmed prisoners are being paraded around the city.... walking behind the conquering King in chains..... to demonstrate to the Kings citizens his power, his glory, his might as his enemies are subject to Him.

The entire heavenly kingdom rejoiced in the victory of Christ.....and the day will come when we rejoice right along side of them!

This is what Jesus meant when he said in John 12, "Now will the ruler of this world be cast out." And John 16 that "the ruler of this world has been judged."

What that means for you and I is that Christ victory over Satan, over sin, over death guarantees our victory over Satan, over sin, and over death.....Satan is still alive and active, but he is a defeated foe..... as Luther wrote, "His doom is sure."

This is another subject altogether, that we cannot explore now.....but I should say that the fact that Satan has been defeated, and yet His future doom is sure is something that Scholars and Christian leaders refer to as us living in "already not yet" state until final victory when Christ returns.....

Christ has already triumphed, Satan has **already** been cast out, judged, disarmed and defeated.... Yet, since Christ has "**not yet**" taken his throne, satan still prowls about like a roaring lion.... he is still a murderer, a liar, and an accuser of the brethren.....We still must put on the whole armor of God to fight against Him.....

But his power is a limited power.... Subject to the will of God..... Luther used to call him a dog on a chain....he can go out a little ways..... bark.... And look real scary..... but since God is holding the chain, we are safe.....

The victory is ours in Christ against a defeated foe.....we are continue to work and build His kingdom....and the day is coming when the promise will be finally fulfilled when he returns and takes us home.... Christ has already won..... but he has not yet returned to His final place of power and glory.....

So we wait expectantly, already knowing by faith that Christ has conquered Satan, Sin, and death.....Greater is He who is in us than He that is in the world.

The miraculous, super natural, work of Christ gives you the desire and the power to live for Him until he returns and takes you home.....This is the power of Christ in you.....

If you are believing Christian.....Look again at what He has done.... I am going to start from verse 15 and work my way back to verse 9....

He crushed the head of Satan..... defeated Him..... marched into the heavenlies with satan and all of the shackled demons behind him demonstrating to the heavenly kingdom that the battle is over, Satan is defeated, Christ has conquered.....He paraded Him around all the heavenly hosts as a demonstration of his power, authority and victory

God took the ledger of sins against you that you wrote and kept track of in your own handwriting and placed it on His one and only Son, then nailed His son to the cross to take on the punishment you deserved

God removed all your guilt and despair by forgiving all your trespasses...

God the Father brought you out of your dead condition and made you, a walking dead person truly alive.....

Jesus Christ cut away or cut off the power sin had over you.....

And, Jesus Christ is God and He lives in you by His Spirit.....

Beloved, these are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that Paul is talking about earlier in chapter 2..... and I feel like we still have barely scratched the surface.....

I think I already quoted 4 hymns in this sermon.... It is because men through the centuries continue to marvel at the wonderful Grace of Jesus (that is 5).....or the amazing love how can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me (that is 6)

seek Him, pray to him, love Him, know him sing about him, learn about him. Walk in Him.....glorify Him, praise Him... find your hope in Him.....Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand