

"spoiled is open to a variety of translations. The thought, however, is of the same intent, namely, that He despoiled on the strength of His own might and power those agencies which the Gnostics sought to emulate! Indeed, our Lord "made show of" them." This verb means to expose or make a display of. The whole scene is of a Victor in full celebration.

- b. A creation. The "principalities and powers" are creations of God. They speak of Satanic hosts who are in opposition to the scheme of the Lord (Eph. 6:12). No invisible unit of creation is capable therefore to claim dominance over the Saviour or His children!
- c. A connection. The word "triumph" is one which denotes the idea of leading in triumph (2 Cor. 2:14). It means to celebrate in festal procession. Where did He do this? At the Cross. What was ignominious was in fact the place of festivity. What a triumph!

Conclusion It must be remembered that Paul is writing this paragraph to show the completeness of believers in Christ. They need no one else and no thing else. All they need is in Christ! Without Him they are dead in sins and uncircumcised in the flesh (v. 13). The former of these means alienation from God in standing; the latter alienation from God in state. The one speaks of total lack of response to God and the other of lack of production in life to God. Oh, the vast differences in being one of God's children! What can possibly compare with it? Surely, you can see the privilege to be "in Christ." If you are not so related to Him personally, why not establish that relationship right now! Amen.

THE EPISTLE OF COLOSSIANS

"The Triumph of the Cross"
Colossians 2:11-15

Introduction

1. Defeatism is nowhere to be associated with the Lord Jesus Christ. What was a scaffold in one sense provided to be His chariot of victory. His Cross is a symbol of victory!

2. His Cross is a part of His blessed complete work for His own. Not only in His Person but also in His work, the children of faith are complete. Complete in HIM! Blessed truth.

3. What are some of the ways by which His work has made believers complete? The text of this portion gives five wonderful answers. Here they are:-

1. CIRCUMCISED IN HIM. v. 11

It is to be noted that the verb "circumcised" is aorist passive. It relates, then, to the standing of a believer in Christ. It is true of all who are related to God in Christ our Lord.

What kind of circumcision is it?

- a. It is spiritual. "not made with hands." This word is used only three times in the NT (Mark 14:58; 2 Cor. 5:1; here). Hence, physical connotations are not in view (cf. Rom. 2:29).
- b. It is moral. "in putting off the body of the flesh." The verb is a double compound and maybe a word coined by Paul (only found in v. 15 again). Means to "divest" oneself of an old garment. In this instance of "body of flesh" which is a reference to the moral power of the unregenerate life. It is self-will, self-life. The body conditioned by the flesh.
- c. It is supernatural. "of Christ." He is the One Who instituted it. It belongs to Him. This is not something of rights and rituals, but of that

which is provided and confirmed in Christ our Lord.

2. BAPTIZED IN HIM v. 12.

The wonderful thoughts of identification with Christ are continued in this expression. Two major ideas are stated:

- a. Burial. This baptism is effected by the Holy Spirit. It is the only means by which one may be (positionally) saturated with the influence and power of His death! That water baptism exhibits this we have no doubt, but the effective condition is by the Holy Spirit (see Rom. 6:3, 4).
- b. Revival. New life comes too. The verb "raised" means to "wake up together," Romans 6 notes that this is in newness of life. It is the work of the Spirit in His baptism which brings this about. But correlated with this is the fact that the person so acted upon by the Spirit has exercised faith. The working of God (His operation in Christ's death, burial and resurrection) is the object of faith. By this faith principle and the Spirit baptism we are given new life in Christ our Lord. Water baptism publicly declares the possession of this new life in Christ. It is an outward ordinance of an inward appropriation through faith!

3. QUICKENED IN HIM v. 13.

The completeness of His own is accentuated by the statement of Paul that we have been "made alive" in Christ. The aorist tense of this verb shows its critical notion in the life of the believer. A concomitant of this life-giving situation is the forgiveness of sins. It's worthy of observation that Paul uses the pronoun "us" in this connection (not as AV--you) to show that he aligns himself in the transgression and the forgiveness. The verb for "forgiveness" is also aorist and comes from a

root meaning to bestow a favor unconditionally. The resultant meaning is forgive. Since the word "trespasses" refers to acts of "falling beside" something, the statement here is that God has done away with the breaches against His holy character and will.

4. DELIVERED IN HIM v. 14.

- a. Related to the law. The deliverance suggested here is in connection with the law of Moses. The word "handwriting" is the word for "bond." When a person writes a pledge making himself obligated to make certain payments, this is the word used (cf. Philem. 19). This "bond" was written in "ordinances." That word does not mean "ordinances" as opposed to "moral" items of the law. The law is a unity, hence Paul is stating that the whole law is involved here. What law? The law of Moses as found in the Pentateuch. Paul describes these as being utterly contrary to Jew or Gentile capability.
- b. Accomplished in Christ. The verb "blotted out" is aorist and means to "cancel or rub out." Here is an obliteration once and for all! The fact that the Spirit directed Paul to use another verb and put it in the perfect tense shows that the action has abiding results (taken away). The prepositional phrase "out of the way" also removes the indictment from one's midst!
- c. Dated at Calvary. One might well ask: when did Christ do all of this? The answer is given: "nailing it to the Cross." What was removed was nailed to His Cross in triumph! Like the raising of an American flag in battle signifies a triumph, He gave public demonstration that the law had been done away.

5. ADVANTAGED IN HIM v. 15.

- a. An action. What Paul is referring to here is the dynamic sovereign power of Christ. The verb