

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

“Triumph in Christ”

Col. 2:13-15

Give Heed

1. The infinite Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is given accent in v. 9. There can never be any doubt that the essence of God is “at home” in Christ.

2. The concomitant to that awesome truth is that the believer is “made full” forever in his union with the Lord Jesus (v. 10). No wonder John is instructed to write: “as He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).

3. Two specific extrapolations of our “fullness” are given, namely a. positional circumcision, b. spiritual baptism (vv. 11, 12). Taking these as the “operations of God” and doing it “by faith,” the believer has “put off the body of the flesh” and has been raised “to walk in newness of life” (Col. 2:11; Ro. 6:4).

N.B. These basic doctrinal matters are the ground on which the child of God is able to experience a life of unforgettable holiness. That is the very rationale for the salvation of any person.

4. Now, the Spirit of God writes through the apostle Paul additional items accomplished for the believer through the death of Christ (i.e. in addition to spiritual circumcision and baptism of 2:11, 12). Look at these unspeakable privileges:

1. FORGIVENESS v. 13

a. Need for it. Clearly there are two specifics mentioned in the text: 1) dead in acts of sin or transgression. Scripture never hedges on the fact that man is “dead” toward God. As a result of the Garden of Eden sin by Adam, the race by seminal relationship is dead (Eph. 2:1). “Sins” means “trespassed” i.e. fell beside what is right before God. 2) uncircumcision of the flesh. This is a reference to the sin nature. Man’s condition is absolutely hopeless before God.

b. Work for it. Ah, this is the good news of the Gospel. The verb used here has three words combined. The preposition “with,” the noun “life” and the verb “make,” hence “to make alive with.” Added to this pregnant verb is the prepositional phrase “with Him.” At the time of regeneration this takes place -- hallelujah! Therefore, death to life!

c. Act of it. The result of the matter is “forgiven” of “all trespasses.” The verb is an aorist middle form. This indicates a once for all forgiveness, a forgiveness in which God has a personal interest, something accomplished by grace, and a work totally done (“all”). Marvel of marvels, the believer has been forever forgiven. If that doesn’t teach the doctrine of security for eternity, nothing else will!

2. DELIVERANCE v. 14

NOTE: The subject of this verse on deliverance is “the handwriting” and “ordinances.” There is no doubt that the “handwriting” is a reference to the Law of Moses. There is no distinguishing between the moral and ceremonial law because the law is a unity. Ordinances (Greek: dogmata) is a reference to the commandments of the one unified Law. The deliverance, therefore is from:

a. What is against. The Law showed man his utter hopelessness, and exposed the evil character of sin, therefore it was “against us.”

b. What is contrary. This phrase is somewhat stronger than the previous one. It adds the thought of hostility. Man is totally unable to meet the demands of the Law. The inexorable demands of the Law teach that men are powerless to discharge their obligations to God. What a need there is for a Savior!

c. What is removed. Thank God for this “Good News.” The work of the Father is at the nub of v. 12; here it is the work of the Son. The former has the aorist tense; the latter the perfect tense expressing absolute permanence. The Law is GONE! Believe that because it stands written.

d. What is nailed. By doing this, the removed Law is given public demonstration that Christ has gained a triumph over it. Christ has made us “free from the Law” and has said so publicly. Glory to God!

3. VICTORY v. 15.

N.B. The issue in this verse concerns “principalities and powers.” These are the powers of darkness working under Satan (cf. Eph. 6:12). Now what sort of victory has the Lord Jesus provided in regard to them? Read it for yourself:-

a. He put them off. What is rendered “spoiled” in the KJV really means “put off” or “strip off.” The middle voice of the verb shows Christ’s special interest in the act. The double prefixes to the verb indicate a total complete work. Make no mistake, it’s a done thing!

b. He showed them off. The verb means to expose or make a display (cf. Mt. 1:19). Think of it -- Christ displayed them in their defeated condition. There is NO need to pray for what has already been accomplished. Do not make a mockery of Calvary!

e. He led them off. “To lead in triumph” is the meaning of the verb (cf. 2 Cor. 2:14). This demonstrates further the completeness of the victory accomplished by Christ. The “in it” refers to the Cross.

Take Courage

Beloved, the Bible is clearer than crystal. Forgiveness is ours through the work of Christ at Calvary. Deliverance from the Law is ours through the work of Christ at Calvary. Victory is ours over evil forces under Satan through the work of Christ at Calvary. No wonder the Lord Jesus shouted from Golgotha, “It is FINISHED” (John 19:30).