

Sunday, November 29, 2020—Colossians 2:11-12 An Operation Not Made With Hands

### Colossians 2:11

- **In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**
- **In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands,**--in addition to having been made complete in Christ in verse 10 we learn in 11 that we “are” also “circumcised with the circumcision made without hands.” Note the following statements carefully:
  - Colossians 1:10—“ye are complete in him”
  - Colossians 1:11—“ye are circumcised”
- Ephesians 2:11—in “time past” Paul says that Israel was the “circumcision in the flesh made by hands.”
  - Genesis 17:9-14—“the flesh of your foreskin”
- Colossians 2:11—members of the body of Christ have experienced the circumcision made without hands i.e., a spiritual circumcision. God performed a spiritual operation on us the very moment we trusted the finished work of Christ for our eternal salvation.
  - Philippians 3:3
- Colossians 2:11—what was this circumcision made without hands? It was the “putting off” i.e., laying aside of “the body of the sins of the flesh.”

### *Inward & Outward Man*

- I Thessalonians 5:23—I believe based upon this verse that mankind is a trichotomous being, made in the image God (Gen. 1:26-27), possessing a body, a soul, and a spirit.
- Hebrews 4:12—only the word of God can discern the difference between the soul and spirit. Preachers, myself included, often try to explain the difference between the soul and spirit. While these studies are well intended, I have found that they often end up with making statements that seem to make sense but are not necessarily supported with verses.
- Instead of trying to explain the differences between soul and spirit, for the purposes of this lesson we will be more general and limit our discussion to the inner and outward man.
  - Ephesians 3:16—inner man or inward man (II Cor. 4:16) is the spiritual or immaterial part of a person. A person’s soul, spirit, and heart reside in their inner man.

- II Corinthians 4:16—the “outward man” is a reference to one’s body.
- Colossians 2:11—at the moment of salvation God performed a spiritual operation on the new believer. The life of Christ was infused into the believer's soul and spirit (inner man) which was then circumcised or cut away from “the body of sins of the flesh.”
  - Where before there was death, sin, and corruption now there is now forgiveness of sins (Col. 2:13) and life brought about “through the faith of the operation of God” (Col. 2:12). Believers have experienced an inner man transformation.
  - Instead of our soul and spirit being bound hard to a body of sinful flesh the believer’s inner man has been freed via the circumcision made without hands.

### Colossians 2:12

- **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**
- This operation was performed through baptism or identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection which resulted in the death of the old man and the formation of a new creature.
  - Romans 6:3-7—believers have been freed from “the body of sins of the flesh” (Col. 2:11) that “henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6).
  - Romans 6:8-11—believers need to “reckon” that what is true about Christ is also true of them. While we were once the slaves of sin we are now “alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).
  - Romans 6:12-14—believers don’t have to let sin reign anymore in our mortal bodies. Our members are now capable of being the “instruments of righteousness unto God.”
  - Romans 6:15-19—we are now the servants of righteousness.
  - Romans 6:20, 22—believers have been “made free from sin.”
  - II Corinthians 5:17—for those who are in Christ all things have become new. Does this include the believer’s heart? I believe that it does.

### *The Believer’s Heart*

- On the basis of the finished work of Christ and his shed blood as the only total complete payment for our sins the believer has undergone a heart transplant. Our core problem has been rectified and transformed by the blood of Christ.
  - Romans 5:5—“. . . the love of God is shed abroad into our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

- II Corinthians 1:22—God has given us “the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”
- II Corinthians 4:3-6—where there used to be blindness and darkness God has shined the light of truth into our hearts.
- Galatians 4:6—the Spirit of God resides within your heart and is crying Abba Father right now as you listen to this message.
- I Timothy 1:5—the believer's heart is pure before God. Why? Because God the Holy Spirit lives in your heart and cries Abba Father.
- II Timothy 2:22

### **Conclusion**

- On the basis of the blood of Christ, God almighty performed open heart surgery upon us. He transformed us at our very core. He took our vial and sinful heart and placed his Spirit within it. Thereby making us alive to life of God and providing us with the capacity to do the will of God from the heart.
- We have a new heart. Christ is in our heart. The Holy Spirit cries Abba Father from within our heart. At our very core, the essence of who we are is well pleasing unto God. We have received the total and complete redemption of our inner man.