

Sunday, December 6, 2020—Colossians 2:13-17 Total Forgiveness

### Colossians 2:13

- **And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**
- **And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh**—prior to believing the Paul’s gospel, the inhabitants of Colossae were all dead in their sins, and the uncircumcision of their flesh. The grammar suggests that before they were saved, they existed in a state of spiritual death.
  - Ephesians 2:1—the unsaved are literally living in their sins & trespasses.
  - Romans 2:12-15—even though the law was not given to the Gentiles they were still falling on their faces in terms of measuring up to God’s righteous standards.
- Colossians 2:13—the fact that the word “sins” is plural highlights the fact they were daily falling short of God’s righteous. Not only that but they were also in “the uncircumcision of their flesh.”
  - Colossians 2:11—in their lost state they had not yet received “the circumcision made without hands.”
  - Notice that “sins” is plural” but “the uncircumcision of your flesh” is singular. This is significant for at least two reasons:
    - Ephesians 2:3—it indicates that before salvation the Colossians were sinners by nature.
    - As sinners by nature all that they could produce would be sinful acts and trespasses; likewise, their sinful acts and trespasses demonstrated that they were sinners by nature.
    - Colossians 2:11—therefore the “circumcision made without hands” is so important. God did not just forgive you and save you from your sins he transformed you and took care of our core problem.
- **hath he quickened together with him**—out of the state of deadness identified in the first phrase of portion of verse 13, God quickened them thereby making them spiritually alive with Christ.
  - Ephesians 2:5—Christ shares his life with those who are joined to him through faith.
    - John 6:57

- **having forgiven you all trespasses**—before God could make those who were dead in trespasses and sins alive, they had to be forgiven. Note the past tense on the phrase “having forgiven.” Grammatically, this means the following, God having forgiven them; then made them alive in Christ. Put another way, there had to be the removal of sin through forgiveness before there could be the impartation of life with Christ.
  - Ephesians 1:7— shows us the effect of our redemption. “Redemption through his blood” equates to or results in “the forgiveness of sins.”
    - I Corinthians 15:3-4—“Christ died for our sins”
    - Based upon the redemption we have through the blood of Christ not only we will never return to the marketplace of sin but our sins are forgiven as though they were never committed and we are treated as not guilty.
    - “SinS”—please note that we have not just been forgiven of “sin” but all of our “sins.” All our sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven under the blood of Jesus Christ. Believers enjoy a state of total and complete forgiveness in Jesus Christ. All our sins have been paid for.
  - Colossians 1:14

### Colossians 2:14

- **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;**
- Contextually, Paul is talking about our position in Christ and the mechanics of forgiveness. We know from verse 8 that the Colossians were endanger of falling for the Gnostic error which included an emphasis on “the tradition of men” and “the rudiments of the world.”
- The time setting of this verse is the cross. It speaks of the handwriting of ordinances i.e., the law.
  - Exodus 31:18
  - Deuteronomy 9:10
- Colossians 2:14—notice that the law was two things: 1) “against us” and 2) “contrary to us”
  - Romans 3:19-20
  - I Timothy 1:6-10

- Colossians 2:14—as far as believers are concerned the law has been “blotted out” i.e., obliterated, and expunged. Furthermore, it was “taken out of the way.” When the Lord Jesus Christ hung on that cross and shed his blood in payment for our sin, he stratified the righteous requirements of the law.
- The “rudiments of the word” have no more claim or sway over a believer. Thus, Paul’s statements to the Colossians later in the chapter.
  - Colossians 2:16
  - Colossians 2:20—if ordinances that were against us were blotted out why would you subject yourself to them again.
    - Galatians 4:9
- Colossians 2:14—the rudiments of the world only have the power in our lives that we allow them to have.