

"The Finished Work of Jesus Christ"

Part 2

Colossians 2:11-15

Introduction: Last week in our study of Colossians we were looking at how we are new creations in Jesus Christ.

Notice Colossians 2:11-13

The heretics that had come in would have preached the need for circumcision but Paul reminds those who read this letter that all believers have been circumcised with a circumcision made without hands. He is speaking of the cutting away of the flesh from the heart. Before we were saved, we were controlled by the sin nature/the flesh. But when we were saved, the flesh was stripped of his power by the cross.

Romans 6:3-6

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

What happened when we were saved has made us new creations in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

In Colossians 2:13 Paul also reminded us that we are born again. He uses the word "quicken" which means "to be made alive." Then he ends verse 13 by telling us that He hath forgiven all our trespasses. Our sins had to be forgiven and removed from our account in order for us to be able to enter the presence of the Lord.

Hebrews 10:1-4, 12-14

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

³ *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

➤ **The Love of our Lord**

Notice Colossians 2:14

Jesus blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. What does this mean? Before we were saved, we had a list of sins that needed to be paid for. This was known as our sin debt. Every sin that we had ever committed was kept in a record by God. Let me support this thought with the Scriptures. Let us start with the judgment of the unsaved.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

The sins we had recorded were written in a book and kept by God. We see this Truth also when we look at what happened when we were saved.

Hebrews 10:16-17

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

¹⁷ **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

When we are saved, we are brought into the New Covenant in which our sins and iniquities are remembered no more. The flip side of this would be the unsaved and their sins and iniquities are recorded by God and remembered for the day of judgment.

Romans 2:1-6, 16

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

² *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

³ *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

⁴ *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

⁵ *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

⁶ **Who will render to every man according to his deeds:**

¹⁶ *In the day when God shall judge **the secrets of men** by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

Notice Colossians 2:14 again.

These offences were against us. That means we were condemned by them. The Law that is written in our hearts had been broken as well as the Mosaic Law and the Law was then against us because the Law called for the death of all who broke it.

2 Corinthians 3:6-7

⁶ *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

⁷ *But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:*

The Law proves that we are sinners and therefore the Law calls for our death.

Ezekiel 18:20

²⁰ *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

The offences were also against us because they had created a barrier between us and God.

Isaiah 59:2-3

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

³ *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

We were all separated from God because of our offences. That is "spiritual death" because death means "separation."

So, we had this certificate of debt that was against us before we were saved and this certificate called for our death. But Jesus paid this debt for us.

Notice Colossians 2:14 again.

Jesus took our certificate of debt and nailed it to His cross, meaning that when Jesus died His death was the full payment for our sin debt. Jesus completely eliminated our "certificate of debt". When someone had a debt in Bible times and it was paid off, they would write "Tetelestai" on the certificate of debt. Tetelestai meant PAID IN FULL and is the same word Jesus spoke just before He died. When the Jews nailed Jesus to the cross, they drove the nails into their own law. The old covenant was made obsolete by the blood of the new covenant.

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Everyone of our offences was placed upon Jesus when He died thus, He paid for them all. You see God required that in order for forgiveness to be granted there had to be a blood sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

Isaiah 53:4-11

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when **thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,** he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and **shall be satisfied**: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Notice Colossians 2:14 again.

Notice what is said concerning the word "TOOK" in this verse.

The word "TOOK" is in the perfect tense and it speaks of a completed action in the past with present effects and thus signifies that Jesus' once for all death on the cross in the past has produced a permanent, eternal effect, specifically in regard to the removal of the bond that once was against us. The debt is permanently removed and cannot be presented against us again! This truth also helps one understand how it is that he is "complete in Christ" and protects one from persuasive arguments and empty philosophy.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Conclusion:

Notice the words of Ironside on the finished work of our Lord.

"Pilate wrote out the inscription to be placed over the head of Christ Jesus, and that in three languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, that all might know why the patient Sufferer from Galilee was being publicly executed. "This is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews." As the people read this they understood that he was being crucified because He made Himself a king and was thus disloyal to Caesar.

But as God looked upon that cross His holy eye saw, as it were, another inscription altogether. Nailed upon the rood above the head of His blessed Son was the handwriting of ten ordinances given at Sinai. It was because this law had been broken in every point that Jesus poured out His blood, thus giving His life to redeem us from the curse of the law. And so all of our sins have been settled for. There the law, which we had so dishonored, has been magnified to the full in the satisfaction which He made to the divine justice. Thus Christ has become the end of the law to every one that believeth. It is of course the Jewish believers Paul has in mind when he says "us," for Gentiles were not under the law. But it is true now in principle for us all, to whom the knowledge of the law has come. Christ has, by His death, met every claim against us and cancelled the bond we could not pay."