

"The Finished Work of Jesus Christ"

Part 3

Colossians 2:11-15

Introduction: Two weeks ago, in our study of Colossians we looked at Colossians 2:14 and in this verse Paul reminds us of the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Notice Colossians 2:14

Each of us had a sin debt that needed to be paid for. We were all spiritually bankrupt and we were completely unable to pay our debt. Jesus therefore went to the cross and took our certificate of debt and nailed it to His cross and in so doing when He died, He fully paid our debt. The phrase "**took it out of the way**" is very interesting because it is in the perfect tense and it speaks of a completed action in the past with present effects. The removal of our sin debt is final and can never be reversed. When we were saved the finished work of Jesus Christ along with His blood was applied to our account and every sin that we had ever committed was paid for as well as all the future sin that we have not even committed yet.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Hebrews 10:11-14

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never 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.*

This is not all that was accomplished on the cross.

Notice Colossians 2:15

When Jesus died on the cross, He also strip the demonic world of their powers which they were able to use against us who are believers. They can still lie and deceive us but they can no longer enslave us. Their power over the believer has been stripped away. This however is not the case for the unbelievers.

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Notice Colossians 2:15 again.

The word "triumphing" used by Paul here had an interesting meaning. Notice the history behind the Triumph.

"Triumph is a technical term, and it had some very significant meaning in the Roman world. The Romans had what they called, "a triumph." It was the highest honor that could ever be paid to a victorious Roman general. When the Roman government gave a general a triumph, that was the ultimate. Before any Roman general could be granted a triumph, he must have achieved certain things. He must have been the actual commander-in-chief in the field, and not a secondary leader; the campaign that he engaged in must have been completely

finished; the region, which was conquered completely pacified, and the victorious troops brought home. Furthermore, according to Roman history, 5,000 of the enemy, at least, must have fallen in one engagement so that it fell into the category of a slaughter. Furthermore, as a result of this campaign, a positive extension of Roman territory must have been gained, and not merely a disaster retrieved or an attack repelled. And the victory must have been won over a foreign foe, and not in a civil war. Triumphs didn't happen very often.

But in an actual triumph, the procession of the victorious general marched through the streets of Rome all the way to the capitol. And you can even read about the sequence of that march and the order of the people in the parade itself. First, there came the state officials and the Senate-- always the politicians. Then there came the trumpeters, who were heralding what was coming. Then came the spoils taken from the conquered land, carted along. For example, when Titus conquered Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the seven-branched candlesticks, the golden table of shewbread, the golden trumpets were carried through the streets of Rome in his triumph. Then there came some painted pictures of the conquered land and some models (can you believe it?) of conquered citadels and conquered ships. Then there followed the white bull, which was going to be offered as a sacrifice to the gods. Then there came the wretched captives, the enemy princes, leaders, and generals in chains, shortly to be flung into prison and, in all probability, to be executed. Then there came the, what were called lictors, or punishers, who were beating these people with rods. And then there came the musicians. And then there came the priests swinging their censors with the sweet-smelling incense burning.

And then came the general himself after all of this huge entourage. He was in a chariot drawn by four horses, he was clad in a purple tunic embroidered with gold and palm leaves, and over it a purple toga marked out with golden stars. In his hand he had an ivory scepter with a Roman eagle on the top of it, and over his head a slave held the crown of Jupiter. And after him rode his family. And finally, at the very end, came the army wearing all their decorations and shouting, "Triumph! Triumph! Triumph!"

And all this massive procession moves through the streets of the city, all decorated and garlanded with flowers all shouting and, along the edge of the road of course are these mobs of people cheering. It was a tremendous day -- a day which probably happened once in a lifetime. That is the picture in Paul's mind."

Because of the finished work of Jesus upon the cross the enemy now has no power over us when we are walking in the Light.

➤ **The Application**

Part 1

Colossians 2:16-23

Notice Colossians 2:16

Paul now exhorts his readers to not allow legalism to have any place in their lives. Jesus made us complete and there is nothing that can be added that will bring us closer to God. We can gain the understanding from this verse that part of the heresy was to put the believers under the Law. They wanted them to go back under the old economy and keep a certain diet, to keep certain feasts, and to keep the Sabbath.

Notice Colossians 2:17

These things were all just a shadow of what was to come and that was Jesus Christ. So, the question is, "Why live in the shadow when the reality is here?"

Hebrews 10:1-4

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.*

I want to take some time and look at some of the shadows in the Old Testament. There were 7 Feasts that Israel kept and they were all pictures/shadows of what was yet to come.

1. **The Passover Feast**- This was a picture of the death of Jesus Christ to protect us from the judgment of God.
2. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** - This was a picture of how Jesus died to take away our sins.
3. **The Feast of Firstfruits** - This was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the resurrection that is yet to come of all believers.

4. **The Feast of Pentecost** - The word PENTECOST means "FIFTIETH." This feast took place 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits. This Feast is a picture of the church.

Let me show you something interesting about the Feast of Pentecost.

Leviticus 23:15-17

¹⁵ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

¹⁶ Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

¹⁷ Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

The two loaves with leaven are a picture of the two groups that will make up the church, Jews, and Gentiles. The leaven speaks of the sin that will exist in each of us. This Feast of Pentecost could not take place until the Firstfruits offering was accepted by God.

Leviticus 23:11

¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

Once this was accepted by God then the Feast of Pentecost could take place.

This is a picture of how the sacrifice of Jesus Christ had to be accepted by the Father and it is also a picture of how Jesus had to ascend to the Father before the church could ever exist.

5. **The Feast of Trumpets** - This is not a picture of the Rapture as many teach and believe. Remember that these Feasts are Jewish so it must pertain to the nation of Israel. This Feast is a picture of the gathering of the Jews when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

³¹ *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

6. **The Day of Atonement** - The Feast of Trumpets pictures the gathering together the nation of Israel and the Day of Atonement picture the salvation of the nation of Israel. There will be a Jewish remnant saved when Jesus returns and the end of the Tribulation.
7. **The Feast of Tabernacles** - This was the greatest of all the Feasts. This Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The Millennial Kingdom will be established at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns with His bride.

Conclusion: We will return to these verses next week. As we close, we can see why Paul exhorted these believers to avoid legalism. They were to refuse the heresy that was being taught and was trying to put them under the Law. They/we are complete in Jesus Christ. There is nothing we can do to make us more acceptable to God. We are accepted in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:6

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*