

Colossians 2:9-15 – In Christ ii.

I. (9-10) Complete

He is fully God in human flesh; His presence in us makes us complete...

One of the philosophies of their day was that the spiritual don't mix with the physical – that Christ was either just a spirit or just a man.

II. (11-15) Alive

Circumcised: They **were** indeed circumcised in a spiritual sense (Our spiritual circumcision meant the **putting off** of the old man), which is even more important than physical circumcision, which the Jews were requiring of them to be right with God. Real circumcision is spiritual, and it is salvation.

***Galatians 5:6** - For in Christ Jesus neither **circumcision** nor **uncircumcision** avails anything, but faith working through love.*

***Romans 2:28-29** - For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

Buried and raised: They were buried and raised with Christ in baptism.

Baptism does illustrate our identification with the death and resurrection life of Jesus. We were **buried** with Jesus, and **buried** under the water. We are also **raised with Him**, and raised up out of the water.

***Romans 6:5-6** - For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

***Galatians 3:27** - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Having died, buried and raised from the dead, we're alive:

***Ephesians 2:4-6** - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

From where do we get the confidence that we're alive?

i. Forgiven...

Psalm 85:2 - *You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.*

ii. Cleared sins...

We remember that the accusations of Jesus' crime were nailed to the cross and hung above His head.

Matthew 27:37 - *And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

“Jesus not only *paid* for the writing that was against us; He also took **it out of the way**, and then **nailed it to the cross**. He did everything possible to make certain that the **handwriting of requirements that was against us** could no longer accuse us.”

iii. Victory...

“The greatest powers of the earth at that time – Rome, the greatest governmental power and Judaism, the greatest religious power – conspired together to put the Son of God on the cross.”

Romans 8:34-39 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:*

“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1Corinthians 15:55-57 - *“O Death, where is your sting?*

O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.