

Colossians 2:11-14

11-12 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, **by PUTTING OFF the body of the SINS of the FLESH, by the CIRCUMCISION of CHRIST, buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

• **Philippians 3:3** “For we are the _____ (TRUE worshipers), who _____ God in the _____, rejoice in _____, and have no confidence in the _____.”

• **John 4:23-24** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the _____ worshipers will _____ the _____ in _____ and _____; for the Father is seeking such to _____ Him. _____ is _____, and those who worship Him must worship in _____ and _____.”

• **Romans 6:3-5** “Or do you not know that as many of us as were _____ into Christ Jesus were baptized into His _____? Therefore we were _____ with Him through _____ into _____, that just as _____ was _____ from the _____ by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in _____ of _____. For if we have been _____ together in the likeness of His _____, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His _____.”

Definition: “BAPTIZED into Christ Jesus” “BAPTIZED into His DEATH” — The word “baptized” in the Greek means IMMERSED, PLACED INTO, IDENTIFIED WITH. **We are PLACED INTO CHRIST** the moment we believe, by the Holy Spirit, as well as the Holy Spirit coming to live in us. Because **we are IN CHRIST**, and **CHRIST ALREADY DIED to sin**, then **WE HAVE DIED to sin**, too.

• **Colossians 3:1-3** “If then you were _____ with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your _____ in things _____, not on things on the _____. For you _____, and your life is _____ with _____ in God.”

• **Romans 6:1-2** “What shall we say then? Shall we _____ in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who _____ to _____ live any _____ in it?”

• **Galatians 2:20** “I have been _____ with _____; it is no longer I who live, but _____ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh (in this human body) I _____ by faith in the _____ of _____, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Definition: “The Circumcision” — This was a term used to refer to the Jews, because circumcision was the “sign” of their covenant with God. **Jesus, however, brought in the NEW COVENANT** (New Testament), and there is no longer any “sign” of our covenant that is in our flesh (our physical bodies). Our covenant with God is through the blood of Jesus, and it is a SPIRITUAL covenant. **The Holy Spirit performs a SPIRITUAL circumcision, the REMOVAL of our SINS and our old SIN NATURE from us, and causes us to be re-born and MADE ALIVE in our spirits.** A person who has NOT had this SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH is **spiritually DEAD, AND THEY cannot WORSHIP God in the spirit.**

• **Romans 2:28-29** “For he is not a _____ who is one outwardly, nor is that _____ which is _____ in the _____; but he is a _____ who is one _____, and circumcision is that of the _____, in the

_____, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

Definition: “WORSHIP in SPIRIT and TRUTH” — These are the two vital ingredients for true worship of God. **This is why ALL RELIGIONS CANNOT BE RIGHT. If we try to come to God when still SPIRITUALLY DEAD, we cannot worship Him “in spirit.”** If we try to come to God with **FALSE IDEAS or BELIEFS** about Him, we cannot worship Him “in TRUTH.”

• **Psalm 29:2** “Give unto the Lord the glory due His name; _____ the Lord in the beauty of _____.”

• **Psalm 145:18** “The Lord is _____ to all who _____ upon Him (worship or pray to Him), to all who call upon Him in _____.”

Definition: “By PUTTING OFF the body of the SINS of the FLESH, by the CIRCUMCISION of CHRIST”

– This means God surgically removed the old, dead sin nature from your spirit when He raised you up to new life in Christ. **You have a NEW NATURE! You are a new creation in Christ in your SPIRIT**, and the POWER of sin has been broken over you. This **“CIRCUMCISION of CHRIST” is REAL, but it is in your SPIRIT**, so you still have problems with your fleshly body. Your FLESH (human body) is still unregenerated (un-born again) - it has not yet been changed (see I Cor. 15:50-54). SIN still resides in your fleshly BODY, in the form of uncontrolled bodily appetites. Your BRAIN is part of your body, and it is still filled with **sinful thought patterns**, until you renew it with the word of God. Your emotions are weak, because they are affected by bodily functions: how much sleep you’ve had, hormones, stress, etc. Body, mind and emotions, with all the **habits and behavior patterns you trained them to do**, are referred to as “the FLESH” (Romans 7:18 & 23). What exactly is the “old man” that was crucified with Christ? **The old man is your human nature, warped by sin. It is the person you were BEFORE you were BORN AGAIN** - your old sin-loving SELF, who felt comfortable and at home with sin. Yes, Colossians 2:11-12 says God surgically removed the old, dead sin nature from your spirit when He raised you up to new life in Christ. But then Rom. 6:6 says **“that the BODY of sin might be DONE AWAY WITH.”** The literal meaning of “done away with” here is **“RENDERED INOPERATIVE”** (not functioning). God has provided a way for us to be FREE from the POWER of sin, to actually have it **“NOT functioning”** in our lives, when we come to understand that **the power source for sin** (the old nature) has been cut off.

The POWER of the sin nature over us has been broken, but we STILL have to **ENFORCE the CRUCIFIXION of Christ on our BODY of FLESH**, our mind, and our emotions by being OBEDIENT to God and saying “NO” to old sinful desires. We enforce it one DEED at a time by saying “No” and “putting to death” those evil desires whenever they come up.

• **Romans 6:6-7** “Knowing this, that our _____ was _____ with _____, that the _____ of _____ might be done away with, that we should no longer be _____ of sin. For he who has _____ has been freed from sin.”

• **Romans 8:13** “For if you live according to the _____ you will _____; but if by the _____ you put to _____ the _____ of the _____, you will _____.”

• **I Corinthians 9:27** “But I _____ my _____ and bring it into _____, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (lose my testimony).”

13-14 And **you, being DEAD** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made ALIVE** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (sins); **having WIPED OUT the handwriting of REQUIREMENTS which was contrary to (against) us.** And He has taken it out of the way, **having NAILED it to the CROSS.**

• **II Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is _____, he is a new

_____ ; old things have _____ (died); behold, all things have become _____.”

• **Ephesians 2:1, 4-5** “And you He made _____, who were _____ in your trespasses and _____.” “But _____, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when _____ were _____ in _____, made us _____ together with _____.”

• **Romans 8:4** “That the righteous _____ of the _____ might be _____ in us who do not walk according to the _____ but [WALK] according to the _____.”

• **Galatians 5:16-17** “I say then: ‘Walk in the _____, and you shall _____ the lust (desires) of the _____. For the flesh _____ against the _____, and the Spirit _____ the flesh; and these are contrary (OPPOSITE) to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.’”

• **Romans 8:10** “And if Christ is in you, the _____ is _____ because of _____, but the _____ is _____ because of righteousness.”

Definition: “You, being DEAD in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made ALIVE” – I heard a great quote the other day, and I’m not sure who said it originally, but it went like this: **“Jesus did not come to make bad men good, but to make DEAD men LIVE.”** I thought about the question people always ask about why so-called “good people” need to come to Christ. I thought of going to a funeral and looking at the body in the casket. Some of them are made up and fixed up so that they look pretty good. Others look pretty bad, and others are so bad (ravaged by disease, or a car accident or worse), they can’t even have an open casket service. I went to one funeral where we were all forced to go by the casket to get out of the building, and I looked, and my friend’s body was all swollen and bloated, and it didn’t even look like her. I wished I hadn’t looked at all. But anyway, **no matter how good the body in the casket looks, isn’t it still DEAD? All of us are DEAD towards God until we come to Jesus Christ and are born again and given eternal LIFE by Him.** It doesn’t matter how good some people look in comparison to others, **no more than the better-looking body in a casket is more alive than the terrible-looking body. They are ALL DEAD, and we are ALL SPIRITUALLY DEAD before we come to Christ. Only Jesus Christ and the Spirit of the Living God can make us spiritually ALIVE.**

• **John 6:63** “It is the _____ who gives _____; the _____ profits _____.” The _____ that I speak to you are _____, and they are _____.”

• **I Peter 1:23** “Having been _____, not of corruptible _____ but incorruptible, through the _____ of _____ which _____ and abides forever.”

• **John 5:24-25** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who _____ My _____ and _____ in Him who sent Me has _____, and shall _____ come into judgment, but has _____ from _____ into _____. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the _____ will _____ the _____ of the Son of God; and those who hear will _____.”

• **John 10:27-28** “My Sheep _____ My _____, and I know them, and they _____ Me. And I give them _____, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My _____.”

• **I John 3:14** “We know that we have _____ from _____ to _____, because we _____ the brethren. He who does not love his brother (fellow Christian) abides in _____.”

Definition: "The DEAD will HEAR the VOICE of the SON of GOD" — When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior and is born again, they receive eternal life (EVERLASTING LIFE), and are actually **PASSED from DEATH into LIFE**. **The Bible says that we are ALL DEAD in our SINS** and also that **we are in Satan's kingdom BEFORE** we accept Christ. God "translates" us from Satan's kingdom into Christ's kingdom when we are born again, and **we are MADE ALIVE** by the Holy Spirit.

• **Acts 26:18** "To open their eyes and to _____ them from _____ to light, and from the power of _____ to _____."

• **Colossians 1:12-14** "Giving thanks to the Father who has _____ us to be partakers of the _____ of the saints in _____; He has _____ us from the power (kingdom) of _____ and _____ us into the kingdom of the _____ of His _____."

• **Ephesians 2:1-2** "And you *He made alive*, who were _____ in trespasses and _____, in which you once walked according to the course (system) of this world, according to the _____ of the power of the air (Satan), the _____ who now _____ in the sons of _____."

Definition: "The righteous REQUIREMENT of the LAW" — The law can't make a person holy, it can only DEMAND that he BE HOLY. Since our flesh (human nature) is so weak, and we cannot do the good we would like to do, we could never keep God's laws ourselves. However, God **IMPUTES to us** (applies to our account) the righteousness of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:21, Rom. 4:5-11), and since He kept the law perfectly, the REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN FULFILLED through Jesus. It is wonderful that God imputes or applies the righteousness of Christ to us, but there is also another side, and that is where He **"WIPED OUT the handwriting of REQUIREMENTS which was contrary to (against) us. And He has taken it out of the way, having NAILED it to the CROSS"**. It was the custom of the Romans to write out the crime for which a person was being crucified, and nail it to their cross. **Our crimes are the many times we have failed to keep God's laws, and/or have sinned against Him. These sins were nailed to the cross of Jesus, and He took our punishment.** For Jesus Himself, since He was sinless, they could not come up with any crime He had committed, so Pilate had them put up the sign saying Jesus was King of the Jews.

• **John 19:19-20** "Now Pilate wrote a _____ and _____ it on the _____." And the writing was: "Jesus of Nazareth, the _____ of the _____." Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where _____ was _____ was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin."

• **Luke 23:38** "Now there was also an inscription (sign) above Him, _____ in _____, Latin, and _____, 'THIS IS THE _____ OF THE _____'."

• **Matthew 27:37** "And they put up over His head the _____ against Him: THIS IS _____ THE _____ OF THE _____."

• **Romans 3:21-23** "But now the _____ of God apart from the _____ is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the _____ of God which is through _____ in _____ to all and on all who _____. For there is no difference: for _____ have _____ and fall _____ of the glory of God (fall short of the requirement of His law)."

• **Romans 4:5-8** "But to him who does not WORK (doing good deeds in order to try to earn salvation) but _____ on Him who _____ the ungodly, his _____ is _____ for _____. Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God _____ righteousness apart from _____: 'Blessed

are those whose lawless _____ are _____, and whose _____ are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall NOT _____ sin.”