



PASTOR'S OUTLINE

September 18, 2005

Secure in Christ

Colossians 2:11-15

The subtlest dangers to Christianity are not the direct attacks on it. The subtlest dangers to Christianity lie in a slight distortion of its basic truths. The Christians to whom Paul was writing in Colosse were faced with those who would distort Christianity by adding to it. People are still adding to essential Christianity. Faith in Christ is not enough for some. They want to add some sort of good works or religious rituals.

As Christians, we must be clear about the basics. We contend that salvation is BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE. We believe that everything has been provided for us in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Core Competency: Salvation by Grace

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-9

So let's take a look at what we have been given in Christ.

He Have Been Delivered from the Old Sinful Nature

“In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ.” Colossians 2:11

Circumcision, for the Jew, was an outward sign of the covenant that God made with Israel. It was the covenant that identified them as his chosen people. And the outward rite of circumcision was the sign of this covenant. But the covenant was not about circumcision; rather it was about a new way of life. It was about a new relationship with God. It was about having a heart for God. God was interested in the attitude of their heart.

*“The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will punish all who are **circumcised only in the flesh**—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is **uncircumcised in heart.**”* Jeremiah 9:25-26

*“**The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts** and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today.”* Deuteronomy 30:1-20

“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” Romans 6:17-18

We Have Been Made Alive through Faith by Forgiveness

*“Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, **God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.**”*
Colossians 2.12-13

We Have Been Set Free from the Condemnation of the Law

*“Having canceled the **written code**, with its regulations, that was against us and **that stood opposed to us**; he **took it away**, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2.14*

*“For if there had been nothing wrong with that **first covenant**, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said:*

*‘The time is coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a **new covenant**
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.*

*It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.*

*This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.
I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.*

*No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.*

*For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.’*

*By calling this **covenant ‘new,’** he has made the **first** one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.” Hebrews 8.7-13*

We Have Been Given Victory by His Conquest of the Enemy

*“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them** by the cross.” Colossians 2.15*