

ALL IN HIM (Colossians, Part 2)

2:1 – “great conflict” – “I am fighting for you!”

2:1 – “not seen my face” – “never met me”

2:2 – “knit together” – literally, “forced to walk together” (i.e. pushed together by shared circumstances, like a bone knitting together in a cast)

2:2 – “God, EVEN the Father, EVEN Christ” – ONENESS!

2:3 – It’s all in HIM!

2:4 – “lest any man should beguile you” – note in this chapter the doctrines that Paul is concerned about – ONENESS and BAPTISM

2:6-7 – “as you have therefore received” / “as ye have been taught” – what was preached to you originally was RIGHT! (don’t change it!)

2:8 – “spoil” (battle term) – “carry you off as a captive”

2:9 – the ONENESS OF GOD summarized in one verse!

John H. Deering – LEMONADE ILLUSTRATION: LEMON AND WATER

- The lemon is in the water and the water is in the lemon
- The lemon is greater than the water, and still they are one drink
- The lemon is invisible, but he that has seen the water has seen the lemon
- The lemon without the water is too fiery; the water is a mediator between us
- Whoever accepts the water has the lemon also
- O taste and see that this drink is good! ☺

2:10 – “complete in him” – we already have all we need through the Spirit

2 Peter 1:3-4 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2:11 – CIRCUMCISION was the way to enter God’s covenant in the OT, and spiritual circumcision (“made without hands”) is the way in the NT

Among the redemptive covenants, the most comprehensive one is the **Abrahamic Covenant**, which either explicitly or implicitly includes in itself all previous and subsequent covenants. Its ultimate fulfillment is not found in earthly Israel, but in the New Testament Church!

The Abrahamic Covenant is rightly referred to by Stephen as "**the Covenant of Circumcision**," for that act served as the covenantal seal. From the very moment God made this covenant with Abraham, the world would forever be divided into two ethnic groups: the uncircumcised and the circumcised, the Gentile and the Jew.

Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

Galatians 2:11-12 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Only after the physical act of circumcision did a covenant relationship exist in God’s mind, thus **no circumcision, no covenant!** Can God be that demanding? Remember that we would not have the chance of a relationship with God if it were not for His love in initiating the covenant! God has a right to demand that we enter His covenant on His terms! It is important to note that this "covenant of circumcision" was an outward physical act ("in your flesh"), but it initiated man into a spiritual covenant ("everlasting covenant"). **If this covenant was indeed "everlasting," then there must still exist a "covenant of circumcision" today!**

Genesis 17:13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

2:12 – What is NT circumcision? – “BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM”

Galatians 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Baptism in Jesus’ name is NEW TESTAMENT CIRCUMCISION.

In the New Testament, the term "circumcision" can refer to either the **physical ritual** practiced by the Jews, or to the **spiritual seal** of the New Birth, which is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant! It is crucial to make this distinction, for while the Apostles preached that the temporal form of circumcision was passing away, they also declared that spiritual circumcision was an absolute necessity for salvation!

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

In Luke's parallel passage, he substitutes "REMISSION OF SINS" for "BAPTISM" – BECAUSE THEY ARE EQUIVALENT TERMS!

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2:13 – "forgiven you all trespasses"

2:14 – "blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us"

2:15 – "triumphing over them in it" – ROMAN TRIUMPH MARCH

The defeated general and his soldiers were paraded in humiliation through the streets, on their way to their death at the Coliseum. But the conquering general's young sons marched right behind him in the place of honor – solely because they were related to the General by blood!

Satan cannot harm the believer who will not harm himself!

There is only one other time that "TRIUMPH" is used in the NT ...

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

THRIAMBEUO – "a noisy, joyous, fanatical victory procession"!

2:16 – because of all we have in Christ through covenant, don't go back to resting on the Law (or others' expectations!) for your righteousness

The Gentiles in Colossae had never been under the Law of Moses, but now they were willing to embrace it. Why? Because the flesh is weak when it comes to doing spiritual things, but very strong when it comes to practicing religious rules and rituals. Legalism is popular because you can "measure" (and brag about!) your spiritual life!

The power of the Holy Ghost doesn't just RESTRAIN the desires of the flesh, it RETRAINS us by putting new desires within - we do not need LAW on the outside because we have LIFE on the inside!