

## Colossians 2:8; 11-13a, "Not by human hands"

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ."

### Overview of the Passage

"Last week, the passage taught us that Jesus is fully God and entirely human. He has a divine nature and a human nature and both are united in one person. In Him, your salvation is complete because His life, death, and resurrection secured all that was necessary for you to be saved. His work cannot be added to nor can salvation be earned. But false teachers are telling the Colossian church that MORE is required to become more spiritual.

In these verses, Paul explains the *spiritual transaction* that transforms the Christian's sinful nature into a new creation is when they are united with Christ, so that the Colossians (and us) can be confident in salvation and sanctification through Christ alone."

### Digging Deeper Abrahamic Covenant of Circumcision

All the way back in Genesis, God made a covenant with Abraham (Gen 12/15/17). God promised Abraham land, offspring and a universal blessing. Next, God told Abraham to circumcise all of his male offspring in all future generations as a reminder of these promises. Therefore, circumcision became the seal of the Abrahamic Covenant.

If covenantal talk is confusing, think about marriage, the sign that represents the vows of marriage are what... *the wedding rings*. Those wedding rings are a reminder of the vows you made when you said, "I will be faithful to perform these vows." In the same way, circumcision was meant to remind Abraham's offspring that God would be faithful to give them, land, offspring and a universal blessing.

#### I. Circumcision of the heart (v11)

- a. The problem in Colossae is not about \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The problem is \_\_\_\_\_
- c. God was always pointing us to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer 4:4)
- d. God replaced our \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezek 36:26-27)

#### II. Union with Christ (v12)

- a. We unite with Christ in a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Jesus' death and resurrection were \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Our death and rebirth were \_\_\_\_\_

#### III. Dead to sin, alive with Christ (v13)

- a. True \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ to sin
- b. All humans are born with a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 3, Romans 5)

c. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ again (John 3)

### **Discussion questions and devotions for your family**

1. What was the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant?
2. What circumcision is Paul referring to?
3. What is the baptism Paul talks about in verse 12?
4. What does it mean to be dead in sin?
5. What is regeneration (Ezekiel 36:26-27, John 3)
6. How is a person reborn? How do they receive spiritual life?

### **Scripture memorization for August**

#### **Colossians 2:9**

*<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form*

### **Songs to Worship throughout the week**

“Totally God. Totally Man”, by Sovereign Grace (Great for the kids, but I love it too)

“Hypostatic Union” by Shai Linne (it is rap, but it is the best theological song I can find on the two natures of Jesus.)

“Psalm 34, Taste and See” by Shane and Shane

“Psalm 51, Wisdom in the secret heart” by Shane and Shane

*\*You can find these songs on Spotify or Youtube\**

### **Kids Catechism**

**Q.** How many natures does Jesus have? **A.** Jesus has a divine nature and a human nature united in one person.

**Q.** What is a change of heart called? **A.** Regeneration

**Q.** Who can change a sinner’s heart? **A.** The Holy Spirit alone

