

Colossians - Chapter 2
“The Circumcision of Christ”
Colossians 2:9-11

Verse 9-10

1. Why would you want to allow false teachers to lead you away from a complete faith and reliance upon Christ, when in Christ dwells “*all the fulness of the Godhead bodily?*”
2. What a verse this is on the deity of Christ, and it goes right along with 1:19!
 - The word “*Godhead*” simply means “divinity.” In Christ dwells all divinity, bodily (physically). Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of God. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, He was God incarnate.
3. Many people look to philosophers for answers about God. Many people look to religious leaders for answers about God. Many people look to so-called prophets that supposedly reveal God and His desires to us.
4. Paul says, “Why look anywhere else, other than to Christ?”
 - In Him dwells “*all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*” vs. 9
 - He is the Head of all principality and power (different ranks of spirit beings). vs. 10; cf. Ephesians 1:20-21
5. You don't get any higher than Jesus Christ. There is no man, prophet, angel, or spirit being above Him. Everything is beneath Him and subject to Him. He is the Head of it all! Based on this, Paul says to these believers, “*And ye are complete in Him.*”
6. When we trust Christ as our Savior, we are immediately placed in Christ and we are declared to be complete in Him. We lack absolutely nothing. All divine fullness dwells in Christ, and we are in Christ! We share in that fullness.
 - This is why true spiritual growth is not adding something externally to our Christian lives. Growth happens from the inside, out. We grow to understand the fullness of what we already have in Christ, and draw from those spiritual resources. It is an endless wellspring.
7. Christ is everything we need. It is not Christ *plus* this or that. It is Christ alone. We focus on Him, and rest in Him completely. Your faith cannot rest in your pastor, spouse, L.I.F.E. Group leader, teen leader, or in your actions, in your church, etc. Your faith must rest solely and completely in Christ. You are complete in Him.
8. Religions will never teach you this. Why? They desire to keep you in bondage and keep you under their thumbs. They want to keep you on the treadmill of religious performance because it is good for **them**. Galatians 2:4
9. What is the answer? Galatians 5:1, “*Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*”

Verse 11

1. Paul has taught clearly that the believer in Christ lacks absolutely nothing. But, religious teachers were telling these Colossians differently.
2. There was a religious group that was emphasizing the importance of keeping the Old Testament law. They weren't necessarily teaching that keeping the law would save you, but that keeping the law would make a person more spiritual (the spiritually elite).
3. Circumcision was the sign of God's covenant relationship with Israel, and eventually came to represent the law of Moses. Genesis 17:11; Leviticus 12:3; Joshua 5:3-7; Romans 4:11
 - Abraham was the first person given the rite of circumcision. It was to separate Abraham's seed from the wicked, uncircumcised nations around them. Through Abraham's physical seed came the nation of Israel. They were referred to as "the circumcision."
 - There were Jews in the early church who taught Gentiles that if they weren't circumcised, they weren't truly saved (Acts 15:1), or if they weren't circumcised, they couldn't really be spiritual and have a deep spiritual walk.
4. Paul reveals to these Colossian believers that they have already **been** circumcised in Christ! It isn't a physical circumcision (of the flesh), but a spiritual circumcision (in the spirit) made without hands by God's Spirit. What does Paul mean by this?
 - You have a body, and in it dwells the law of sin and death.
 - You have a spirit within your body that was created to spiritually relate to God.
 - You have a soul, which is the seat of your thoughts, emotions, and will.
 - Either your spirit or your flesh will control your soul. You will either think spiritually or carnally. You will make spiritual choices or fleshly choices.
5. Before salvation, our spirit was dead in sins. Our spirit was in bondage to the law of sin that operates in our flesh, because our spirit was devoid of the life of God.
 - We could not function on a spiritual level because our spirit was totally controlled by and under the authority of the law of sin in our flesh. We had no choice but to walk in slavery to the flesh. Ephesians 2:1-3
6. But when we trusted Christ, the Spirit of Christ entered into our spirit and quickened us. We received the resurrection life of Christ. Romans 8:9-11
7. A spiritual operation of God took place whereby the law of sin in your flesh was cut off from your spirit (where God now dwells). The body of sin that once characterized you has now been cut away from your spirit. Your spirit has been set free by the Spirit of Christ.
8. Paul calls this "*the circumcision of Christ.*" The flesh is still present (we still carry it around), but the circumcision of Christ has rendered it powerless. The only way it can overcome us is if we willingly choose to follow after the flesh and submit to the old law of sin and death that works in it.

9. Before salvation we lived in the flesh, under the law of sin and death, but we have been set free. The flesh is no longer our identity. God circumcised that fleshly body of sin and death, and now we're free to have Christ live His life through us.
 - A new law has been introduced and has entered our spirit - the law of the Spirit of life in Christ. Romans 8:2-4
10. When you are in Christ, circumcision becomes a non-issue. It is irrelevant.
 - Isn't this amazing? What was absolutely crucial under the Old Testament law system now means absolutely nothing.
 - This is why Paul told the Jews at Rome that circumcision is that of the heart. Romans 2:17, 28-29
 - As believers today, we have a circumcision made without hands - the circumcision of Christ. Colossians 2:11