

AUGUST 9, 2020

COLOSSIANS

THE ENTRANCE | 2:11-15

“How do we get into this place?!” Ever struggle to find the entrance to a building or home? Paul encourages the Colossians to remember the doorway into a new way of life. They don't make the doorway, but crossing over the threshold puts them into a new reality. The old way of living is trying to sell hope based on the old ways, but it's fake news. Join us as we explore the meaning of baptism and what Jesus has done for us.

Colossians 2:11-15 (CEB)

¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by human hands. The circumcision of Christ is realized in the stripping away of the whole self dominated by sin. ¹² You were buried with him through baptism and raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead because of the things you had done wrong and because your body wasn't circumcised, God made you alive with Christ and forgave all the things you had done wrong. ¹⁴ He destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ When he disarmed the rulers and authorities, he exposed them to public disgrace by leading them in a triumphal parade.

REVIEW:

Colossians 2:8 "Beware of those who can capture you with deceitful "philosophical" ideas. Imagery of captivity/slavery

"elemental spirits" "I am inclined to see in the *stoicheia* a clever reference to diaspora-framed Jewish *halakic* practices understood now as having a spiritual force contrary to the will of God (cf. Gal 3:19, 23-25; 4:1-3, 9-10)" (McKnight, 228).

Colossians 2:9-10 THE SOLUTION OF FULLNESS "IN" CHRIST

Four connections about JC:

- Full of the Diety/God
- "All"
- "All" The list IS Jesus
- In a real body - Fully Human

"...It is properly called "particularist" [not "exclusivist"]. That is the primary claim of the Christian faith is a positive one, namely, that God has become manifest in the particular person of Jesus of Nazareth, and is therefore known in the particular narrative of this man's life, death and resurrection." -Marianne Meyer Thompson (McKnight, 230)
"He is the head over every power and authority"

Colossians 2:11-13a THE SOLUTION OF BAPTISM "IN" AND "WITH" CHRIST. JESUS FOR EVERYONE

Circumcision and Baptism are linked here. Text works like this:

(a) *2:11* The assertion of circumcision in Christ
Old Testament circumcision...

(b) *2:12* The re-assertion of circumcision in Baptism
(1) We start with death

(2) Resurrection

(c) *2:13* The re-articulation of circumcision in Baptism

"In sum, humankind in the world is not just weak and corruptible. There is an inescapable dimension of sin, of failure and transgression, also involved. Humans were created for relationship with God, a relationship which is the essence human life, a relationship which gives humankind fulfillment of being, as creation (in relation to God) and as human (in relation to the rest of the world). But humankind has made the mistake of thinking it could achieve a more satisfying relation with the world if it freed itself from its relation with God. It has turned on God and focused attention exclusively on the world, revolting against its role as creature and thinking got stand as creator in its own right. In consequence humankind has fallen when it thought to rise, has become foolish not wise, baser not superior. It has denied its likeness to God and preferred the likeness of beasts and things. It has lost its share in the majesty of divinity, and now falls far short of what it might have become. Instead of sharing eternal life, it has become dominated by death, a "sucker" for sin, It shares in a pervasive out-of-joint-ness, frustration, and futility with the rest of creation"

(James DG Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*, 101).

Colossians 2:13b-15 THE SOLUTION OF VICTORY IN CHRIST. EVERYBODY VS. JESUS

- We are brought into a people. God's grace is not just about me, myself and I -my forgiveness, My God. It's much bigger.

- Each of us leaves a trail of "pain, heartache, cruelty, and selfishness behind us, however much we might try to patch things up and attempt good deeds when we put our minds to it. Multiply that by all people..."(99).

- The ultimate cancel-culture is against sins - not people!

- BUT WAIT there's more - Pax Romana vs. Pax Christiana

- *Colossians 2:15* HE DISARMED AND TRIUMPHS OVER THE POWERS.

"Some people today consider it arrogance to have confidence in many matters of religion and theology. Look at the wars caused by people who are sure of themselves, we are told--despite the fact that so-called religious wars invariably have complex webs of politics, history and cultural memory behind them; as well as the fact that atheistic ideologies have led to more death between 1789 (the French Revolution) and 1989 (the Fall of the Berlin Wall) than the rest of history combined. [And the Chinese Communist Party is trying to add to the total now]. But more than that, we are told religious [Spiritual] belief and confidence are actually incompatible.

That would be true if we were still in the world of human speculation and effort. It is a different matter altogether if two things are true: 1) God has revealed himself to us. 2) God has saved us for himself.

His initiative change everything. Once that has happened, then to trust him is not arrogance at all but wisdom..."(Meynell, 98).