

Lesson 16
Colossians 2:13-15

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*** Start Recorder ***



Announcements: Iron Men Ministry is Cranking Up!

A. Building the Ministry:

1. Make a *habit* of inviting:
2. Discipleship vs. Evangelism:
3. Iron Men is a discipling ministry for the Christian men of our church.

B. Web Page Manager: Filled – Ben Basquez

C. Communications Manager:

1. Keep contact list up to date.
2. Manage roster and attendance records.
3. Reminder texts, special communications, etc.
4. One-page, bi-weekly newsletter (items posted to website).
5. Member of the church in good standing.
6. Mature, faithful, and trustworthy individual.
7. Time availability: 1-2 hours a week.

D. Embracing Destiny Foundation (EDF): 23-Sep is next event (2 weeks).

E. Iron Men Schedule & Format:

1. Modified Schedule 8-9:30am:
2. Small Group Format:

Read: Colossians 2:13-15

Colossians 2:13 (NOTES)

Discussion: What does Paul mean that they were "dead"? Is this a physical thing? How can we be walking around alive, but dead?

- “dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh” Spiritual death = separation from God - which is broken fellowship wrought by sin. As in the garden of Eden when Adam sinned against God and immediately suffered spiritual death (separation from God brought about through their broken fellowship), so all his descendants are born into the same spiritual state. To be "dead" in this sense, is to exist in a state of spiritual separation from God - no relationship with Him - with the expectation of eternity in hell. Gen 2:15-17, 3:6-12, 21, Is 59:1-2, 2Th 1:9
- It’s called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil because to eat of it is to learn the knowledge of evil through rebellion and sin, and to distinguish it from good, which they had already experienced through fellowship with God (who alone is good). Prior to the knowledge of evil, good was indistinguishable because there was nothing with which to compare it. When evil entered the world through sin, God’s goodness then became apparent. The advent of evil in the heart of man reveals God’s attribute of goodness. Without sin and evil, His goodness is not revealed.
 - Isa 59:2 “But your iniquities [transgressions/sins] have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden [His] face from you so that He does not hear.”
 - 2Th 1:9 “These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”
 - Ge 3:21 "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."
- By doing so, God instituted the sacrificial system of the innocent shedding of blood to cover sin, as in Christ shedding His innocent blood for us on the cross.

Discussion: What does it mean to be dead “in your transgressions”?

- While one’s sin (transgressions) remains *unforgiven*, relationship with God is not possible, as one’s separation from God, which is spiritual death, continues. Once one’s sins are forgiven, one is made alive in Christ, meaning that through faith in Christ, sin is forgiven and that one no longer remains spiritually dead. Rather, eternal life has been bestowed upon the forgiven. This resolves the first problem, spiritual death related to sin, but a second problem yet remains, "uncircumcision of the flesh."

Discussion: What does it mean to be “dead in ... the uncircumcision of your flesh”?

- Spiritual un-circumcision is the state of the *unregenerate* heart, that of the one who has not been born-again. Our separation from God persists on two bases: acts of sin (transgressions) and the corrupt, fallen, sin nature (spiritual un-circumcision). This is the present condition of every person who has not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. In this unregenerate condition, we are unrighteous and unworthy of fellowship with God, or even to be in His presence. Thus, we remain alienated from God.
 - Acts 7:51 “You men who are stiff-necked and *uncircumcised in heart* and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”
 - Rom 2:28-29 "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and *circumcision is of the heart*, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from people, but from God."
- “He made you alive” - That is God the Father chose us (election) for regeneration, making us alive through a new birth in Christ. He made us alive by causing us to be born again by His Spirit, forgiving our sins through faith in His Son, and granting us eternal life.
- “together with Him” - That is Christ the Son. Now, Paul begins to hint at the Resurrection. Just as Christ was resurrected, so we, too, will be raised up on the day He returns for His Bride, the Church. God made us "alive together with Him" through regeneration so that we might participate in His Resurrection at His Second Coming.
- “[God the Father] having forgiven us” - That is God the Father has forgiven us all our sins. Our regeneration led to our responding to the Gospel in repentance and faith in Christ ("faith comes by hearing" Rom 10:17), leading to forgiveness and salvation.

- * “forgiven” - (Gr. - charisamenos) comes from the root word “charis” (usually translated as “grace”) which means to grant as a favor. This same word is used for the cancellation of a debt, as in the Luke 7 parable of The Moneylender (“charizomai” - khar-id’-zom-ahee). Luke 7:40-43
 - Rom 10:9-10 "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
- “He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions” - In trusting in the death burial and resurrection of Christ (“faith in the working of God”) we obtain the spiritual resurrection of our own souls. This is God’s great love for us made manifest. Eph 2, Matt 25:31-34, 46
 - Ro 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Colossians 2:14 (NOTES)

- “certificate of debt” - This phrase has a triple meaning. First, “certificate of debt” refers to sin. The term for “certificate of debt” (KJV - “handwriting”) (Gr. - “chairographon”) was used in ancient times to refer to a criminal indictment of a criminal, that is the explanation or list of offenses for which a criminal was charged.
- Second, it referred to the sentence or debt owed if the criminal was convicted.
- “consisting of decrees [dogma] against us, which was hostile to us” (Gr. - “dogma”). Third, this phrase speaks more broadly of the law which has a legitimate and valid claim over all sinners, namely death (spiritual). Since sinners cannot meet the standards and requirements of the law (God’s), it is hostile toward us, holding over us the claim of a spiritual death sentence. Eph 2:14-16
- “He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” Such a document was usually affixed by a jailer to the wall outside a criminal’s jail cell until the debt was paid. For a death sentence, the document was usually affixed by the executioner on the cross over the head of the condemned one. In the case of Christ, it read “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.” Mt 27:37

- When Christ gave up His Spirit, He cried “Tetelestai,” which is usually translated as, “It is finished” (Gr. - paid in full). Christ’s proclamation of tetelestai from the cross indicated that “He has taken [our certificate of debt (death) death warrant] out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” John 19:28, 30, Is 53
- Through His work on the cross, Christ has satisfied our indictment, our death sentence, and the Law.

Discussion: How many of your sins and my sins were yet future when Christ took them out of the way and nailed them to the cross?

- All of them were yet future. Through faith in Christ, not only are all our sins forgiven - past, present and future - but the Law (the very institution God established to define and condemn our sins) has been permanently set aside such that it may never again separate us from God because of our sins since it no longer holds the claim of condemnation over us. We have received a legal discharge from the law (justification) through our faith in Christ’s work on the cross. Rom 8:28-39, 1Co 15:55-57

Discussion: Why does this truth matter to us in our everyday walks and lives? How does this truth remove fear when we sin? How does this truth help us to persevere when we sin? How does this truth affect our assurance of salvation?

- Rom 8:33-39 "Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Colossians 2:15 (NOTES)

- “He had *disarmed* [stripped or spoiled] the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them” - This is one thing, not three. God the Father stripped the demonic forces of their self-worth/pseudo-honor, by making a public display of them through their inability to hinder, much less stop, Christ’s work on the cross, and especially His resurrection.
- “having triumphed over them through Him” - That is through Christ. God the Father triumphed over every ruler and authority by the exhibition of His great power through the death and resurrection of His Son.

Discussion: Who are these “rulers and authorities”?

- One third of the angels God created; those that followed Satan in his rebellion and became all the demonic forces arrayed against the Son of God and all mankind.
 - Rev 12:3-4 (The Red Dragon, Satan) "Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven crowns. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and hurled them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her Child."

Discussion: Why do we care that through Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection God triumphed over these rulers and authorities?

- Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
- Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.
- "public display of them" - The sense of this phrase is that of the victorious General who parades with his army through conquered cities, having on display the spoils of war and the wretched company of vanquished kings, officers and soldiers trailing behind.

- The ultimate victory was The Resurrection.

Application: Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you have trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

Closing Benediction: Jude 1:24-25 *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*