

Sermon: “Captivated By Christ Alone”

Text: Colossians 2:8-15 (page 984 in pew Bible)

I. Resist and reject false philosophies, vs. 8-10

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition... and not according to Christ.” Verse 8

Don’t drink the Kool-Aid!

II. Remember Christ’s dramatic work in changing you, vs. 11-13a

A. The major point: your inward spiritual change as a “circumcision” of the heart, done by Christ.

1. This inward “circumcision” explained:

“Putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.” vs 11

“You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him,” vs. 13 (cf Ephesians 2:1-4)

2. This inward “circumcision” described

a. Outwardly – the sign of being in the covenant

Genesis 17: 9-11 “And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.”

b. Inwardly – the spiritual reality of a changed heart.

Deuteronomy 30:6 “The LORD your **God will circumcise your hearts** and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

Jeremiah 9:26 “For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is **uncircumcised in heart.**”

Romans 2:28-29 “A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit...**”

B. A minor point: this inward spiritual circumcision done by Christ to every Christian is called “baptism” by Paul in verses 11-12

“You were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism...” verses 11-12

Spiritual baptism – of which water baptism is a symbol – serves the same function for Christians as spiritual circumcision, of which outward circumcision was the symbol.

III. Rejoice that your sins have been fully forgiven, vs. 13b-14

“Having forgiven us all our trespasses...”

A. The entire debt (of your sins) has been cancelled by Christ’s death.

“Canceling the record of debt...”, vs. 14

B. The full punishment for your sins has been paid by Christ’s death.

“With its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”, vs. 14 b