

Captive through Philosophy vs. Complete in Christ Col 2:8-15 (Part 8)

I. Review: Captive through Philosophy

A. Proposition: Study Captive through Philosophy vs. Complete in Christ

B. TURN TO Col 2:8 and we'll work through it to V.13 today

C. Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception.

1. COMMAND! = CONTINUALLY BEWARE NOT to be taken CAPTIVE
2. through philosophy and empty deception,
 - a) Grammar: these are the same thing! "through philosophy which is empty deception!"
 - b) Paul: ALL Human philosophy IS EMPTY / NO VALUE
(1) DOES NOT DELIVER – EMPTINESS at the END!
 - c) Q: What are the sources of this philosophy? (2 of them) = HOW they take you captive:
3. according to the tradition of men,
 - a) Paul: ALL Philosophies build on other philosophies OF MEN – not of God
4. according to the elementary principles of the world,...
 - a) BUT this stuff is just elementary school thinking

II. Review: Complete in Christ

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; ...

A. "rather than according to Christ"

1. = negation of the previous two phrases!
 - a) Christ is NOT the source of any FALSE TEACHINGS (i.e. Christ is NOT "according to the tradition of men")
 - b) Christ is NOT the SUBSTANCE of any FALSE TEACHINGS (i.e. Christ is NOT according to the elementary principles of the world)

B. V. 9-15 = THE SUFFICIENCY of CHRIST!

C. He is Sufficient: He is FULLY God and you are FULL in Him! (v.9-10)

1. "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells" = Christ Is GOD with ALL the FULL DIVINE POWERS and ATTRIBUTES of God!
2. Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, =Christ is FULLY GOD in a FULLY GLORIFIED BODY.
3. 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete,...
 - a) Fullness (v.9) and complete (v.10) are from same root!
 - b) Paul: ONLY in CHRIST

- (1) IS everything that is SPIRITUALLY POSSIBLE for MANKIND FULFILLED 100%
 - (2) You are as complete spiritually as is possible in Christ
 - (3) = In Christ you have the fulfillment and satisfaction of EVERY SPIRITUAL NEED
 - c) TENSE IS CRITICAL: Perfect tense
 - (1) Completeness in the past +continues on eternally!
 - (2) You already have EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED!
 - (3) “In Christ” you have it all!
- Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- 4. and He is the head over all rule and authority;
 - a) “head over ALL rule and authority” = Sovereignty + source of life for all angels/ supernatural
 - b) Bottom line: WHY would you worship SOMETHING that is IN SUBMISSION to CHRIST?!
 - 5. BL on v.9-10: You are complete in Him.
 - a) V.11-15= three ways in which you are complete BECAUSE HE IS SUFFICIENT.
 - b) There are three PARTS to our completeness:
 - (1) In Him you have Complete Salvation (vv. 11-12)
 - (2) In Him you have Complete Forgiveness (vv. 13-14)
 - (3) In Him you have Complete Victory (v. 15)

D. He is Sufficient: In Him You have Complete Salvation

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead

- 1. Paul says, "LISTEN! Your salvation is FULLY complete.
 - a) You don't need for you to be physically circumcised!
 - b) You've been spiritually circumcised and Spiritually baptized!
- 2. Spiritual Circumcision:
 - a) “circumcision” = “cut away” or “cut around”
 - b) Common theme of his – the death of the “old nature” / “old man” at the time you were saved.
 - c) Paul – OK, if you want to talk about surgical processes, then I can explain it that way!
 - (1) When you were saved, Christ did surgery on you!
 - (2) He took away your Old man/ your old nature!
 - (3) He redeemed your soul!
 - (4) You have a new nature / are a new creature / new creation / new man!
 - (5) SURGERY NO MAN CAN DO BY HIS HANDS!

- d) Paul says, "You have a new life. Christ took away the old nature. You don't need any outward sign.

3. Spiritual Baptism (v. 12)

[Col 2:12](#) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- a) Paul IS PICTURING SPIRITUAL UNION with Christ! -
- b) Three facets to this diamond of truth!
- (1) PUT into Christ
 - (2) POSSESSED by Faith
 - (3) PERFORMED by God
- c) PUT INTO CHRIST
- (1) "[Baptism](#)" is an unfortunate word
 - (2) Baptism = IMMERSION / Placed into = UNION
 - (a) = UNION with CHRIST!
 - (b) At salvation you were placed into Christ!
 - (c) WATER BAPTISM MERELY pictures the spiritual reality of your being placed into Christ
 - (3) When you put your faith in Christ,
 - (a) You are buried with Christ.
 - (i) As if you go right to the cross.
 - (ii) PICTURE OF your OLD NATURE DYING
 - (a) *Old man*
 - (b) *Unredeemed soul*
 - (c) *Old Self*
 - (d) *Lots of terms – BUT ALL DEAD!*
 - (b) THEN raised up to new life
 - (i) New Creature / New Creation / New man
 - (ii) Redeemed soul
 - (iii) Lots of terms – ALL ALIVE "IN CHRIST"
 - (4) So, FIRST facet of this diamond: At salvation you were "PUT in CHRIST"
 - (5) Next Facet:
- d) POSSESSED BY FAITH
- [12](#) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith
- (1) Paul FAITH is the MEANS of APPROPRIATION / POSSESSION / PROCUREMENT of salvation!
 - (2) AT THE MOMENT you FIRST execute the truth of Rom 10:9
 - (a) You are INSTANTLY buried / raised up with Him
 - (b) You have new life
 - (c) You are seat with Christ in heaven

- (d) INSTANTLY! IMMEDIATELY!
- (3) = SPIRITUAL MIRACLE!
- (4) Our side of salvation IS FAITH in CHRIST!
 - (a) Specifically, Faith that God raised Him from the dead
 - (b) = that Christ successfully died for sin to be your substitute in the death you deserve!
- (5) So, TWO facet of this diamond:
 - (a) “PUT in CHRIST”
 - (b) “POSSESSED by FAITH
- e) Next Facet: PERFORMED BY GOD
 - 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead
 - (1) Working = “energia” = root for energy
 - (a) = OPERATIVE power, working power
 - (b) Here: God’s RESURRECTION POWER that
 - (i) Raised Christ from PHYSICAL dead
 - (ii) Raised US from SPIRITUAL dead
 - (2) Paul – this is the SAME GOD, SAME POWER working IN YOU that RAISED Christ from the dead!

III. New: He is Sufficient: In Him you have Complete Forgiveness (vv. 13-14)

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

A. Structure of V.13!

1. FIRST half of the verse SETS the CONTEXT of your SPIRITUAL state
2. MAIN VERB is “He made you alive”
3. Paul establishes the REASON and NEED to salvation – You’re DEAD and had NO PATH to SALVATION!

B. The Transition: Dead to Alive!

1. You were dead
 - 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh.
 - a) “When you were dead” = Participle = Literally “being dead”
 - (1) =CONTINUOUS and PREVIOUS
 - (2) You were in a CONTINUOUS STATE of DEADNESS – BACK THEN!
 - (3) = literal word for a DEAD PERSON!
 - (4) = The Prodigal Son of Jesus’ Parable!

[Luke 15:24](#) for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

[Luke 15:32](#) 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and was lost and has been found.' ”

- (5) = KIND of Deadness = SPIRITUAL DEADNESS
- (6) Dead = SPIRITUAL DEADNESS -Dead to GOD
- (7) =COMPLETELY UTTERLY UNRESPONSIVE to anything SPIRITUAL

b) in your transgressions

- (1) UNABLE BECAUSE of “[transgressions](#)” = SIN
- (2) Greek Grammar is SO POWERFUL HERE!
- (3) Noun= “locative” = indicate LOCATION
 - (a) Hence = “location of / sphere of / Realm of ” SIN
 - (b) What does that mean?
- (4) We were dead NOT BECAUSE we SIN but BECAUSE we WERE SINNERS
 - (a) TRESPASSES and SINS here are NOT ACTIONS
 - (b) They are where WE LIVED - Location
 - (c) We sinned because we were sinners

[Matthew 12:35](#) “The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil.

[Matthew 15:18](#) “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. [19](#) “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

- (5) Hence = YOUR CONDITION, YOUR STATE
- (6) Give sense of CONTINUOUS state / condition.
- (7) YOU were spiritually CHARACTERIZED as being DEAD in a STATE of Transgression

c) Technically- “[transgression](#)” = slip, fall, stumble, deviate, go in the wrong direction

- (1) = synonym to “SIN”
- (2) SPIRITUALLY = Conscious / deliberate / Willful action against god’s holiness and righteousness and thus a failure to live as one should

d) NOT ONLY Dead to the things of GOD BUT also YOU WERE in FULL REBELLION!

e) Let’s do a Sunday school lesson on “sin”

- (1) Let’s understand SIN from God’s point-of-view
- (2) What do I mean?
 - (a) Man-centered definition of Sin = WHAT I DO WRONG
 - (b) God-centered definition of Sin = how far short of His glory I am
 - (c) Sin is defined in terms of how far you are from his perfect righteousness

- (3) Sin has more to do with WHAT IS NOT DONE than with what is done.
- (a) what was the definition of the word “sin”?
 - (b) [Sin](#) = missing the mark, falling short of the goal = hunting term
 - (c) =spiritually falling short of God’s standard of holiness
 - (d) Most common word for sin in NT
 - [Romans 3:23](#) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - (i) 3:23 Sin = falling short of God’s glory!
 - (e) God’s standard -be perfect just as He Himself is perfect (Matt. 5:48).
 - (f) God’s command to “[be holy; for I am holy](#)” (Lev. 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:16) = HIS ONLY STANDARD!
 - (i) God has never had any standard for man but perfect holiness.
 - (ii) And YOU FAIL to COME UP TO HIS STANDARD! – the glory of God!
- (4) Man’s common state of sin metaphor - diverse group of people standing on the bank of a wide river, perhaps a mile across.
- (a) Each of them is trying to jump to other side.
 - (b) Very young and elderly – jump a few feet
 - (c) Teenagers, younger adults – jump much farther
 - (d) Great athletes jump EVEN FARTHER
 - (e) BUT none get to other side – NONE even get close!
 - (f) All fall short! All fail.
 - (g) Spiritually – No one gets to glory of God
 - (i) To perfection
 - (ii) To Holiness
- (5) We meet “good” people”
- (a) The person who is a good parent, loving spouse, honest worker, etc.
 - (b) vs. the worst of criminals – felons and murderers, etc.
 - (c) They do not lead equally sinful lives,
 - (d) BUT they are equally in the state of sin, equally separated from God and from spiritual life.
 - (e) Jesus said, “If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same” (Luke 6:33).
 - (i) We all so some good!
 - (ii) That’s not the issue!
 - (f) Jesus said “You then, being evil, [nevertheless] know how to give good gifts to your children” (Luke 11:13).
 - (g) Person apart from God can do humanly good things
 - (h) But as the Lord points out both times
 - (i) person is still a sinner,
 - (ii) still evil by nature,

- (i) During Jesus' second farewell discourse to His disciples He said, "He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin" (John 16:8).
 - (j) The sin of which He will convict men is the sin of disbelief in Jesus Christ (v. 9).
 - (i) = sin of separation from God
 - (ii) = sin of not accepting God as God and Christ as Savior = the sin of rejection.
 - (iii) = sin of NOT doing something
- (6) What am I saying?
- (a) In everything you do, God's perfect, holy, righteous standard is the issue, the focus
 - (b) God looks at your behavior MERELY from that standard.
 - (c) You either do right by the standard
 - (d) OR you FALL SHORT of the standard.
 - (e) Sin is not SEEN as much from WHAT you DID but from WHAT you DIDN'T DO – SHOULD'VE DONE according to God's perfect standard.
 - (f) To repent = AGREE with GOD that HIS STANDARD is RIGHT
 - (i) WHAT you SHOULD'VE DONE is more important
 - (ii) THAN what you did do.
 - (g) To "[set your mind on things above](#)" is do so EVEN WITH YOUR VIEW of SIN!
- f) and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
- (1) = You were a Gentile (not a Jew)
 - (2) = You were OUTSIDE the covenant
 - (3) Paul – NOT ONLY were you dead in SIN, but you didn't have the TRUTH or MEANS to be saved!
- (4) Remember the sermon several weeks ago!
- [Ephesians 2:11](#) Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- (a) = The FACTS of SEPARATENESS from CHRIST (2:11-13a)
 - (i) Socially Separated
 - (ii) Spiritually Separated
 - (a) *Separated from Christ*
 - (b) *Excluded*

- (c) *Strangers*
- (d) *No Hope*
- (e) *Without God in the World*

2. He made you Alive

v.13...He made you alive together with Him,

- a) "He" = God the Father
 - b) "made you alive together with" = the verb!
 - c) Him = Christ!
 - d) Remember – Paul is just summarizing our Transition from Death to life – He hasn't explain HOW/WHY this is possible – that's coming!
 - e) BUT – key here = made you alive!
 - (1) = Power of God to give eternal life!
 - (2) Construct is real simple – He did it all, you did nothing!
 - f) Again – Paul is summarizing something that he spent a LOT of time on in Ephesians – Turn to Ephesians 1:19
 - (1) Eph 1:3-15 God's PURPOSE
 - (2) Eph 1:15-19 PRAYER for that PURPOSE in our lives
 - (3) Eph 1:19-2:22 God's POWER manifest to make the PURPOSE reality
 - (4) Eph 1:19 – ALL of God's POWER! 4 power words...
 - Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*
 - (5) Then, First, God's Power applied to Jesus Christ
 - 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
 - (6) Then, Second – God's Power applied to us individually (2:1-11)
 - Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
- (a) See the verbs
 - (i) "made us alive WITH Christ"
 - (ii) "raised us up WITH Him"
 - (iii) "seated us WITH Him...in Christ Jesus"
 - (b) Paul is SAYING
 - (i) THE SAME POWER that RAISED and SEATED Christ
 - (ii) RAISED and SEATED YOU TOO!

- (iii) And Paul adds the “made ALIVE” to REMIND us that we have COME from ABSOLUTE DEADNESS!
- (iv) BUT—one MAJOR DIFFERENCE in verbs!
- (v) All of the verbs here in 2:5-6 have a PREPOSITION on the FRONT!
 - (a) They are COMPOUND verbs
 - (b) What is the preposition? WITH!
 - (c) Made ALIVE WITH
 - (d) Raised WITH
 - (e) SEATED WITH
- g) Don't EVER doubt God's Power! The SAME power that raised Christ, raised you!

IV. Conclusion

A. Now the preacher's dilemma – back to Col 2:13

v.13...He made you alive together with Him.

1. So, how do you apply this?
2. You are ALREADY alive, right! Can't be more alive, right?
3. Would it be a stretch to lay into you about how you live your life?
4. I could take this one phrase and say SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU ARE ALIVE, you should live like Christ!
 - a) Then I could beat you over the head with
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed, idolatry
 - b) And, then
... anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech...
 - c) And, call you all to
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
 - d) And, don't forget forgiveness, love, peace, thankfulness
 - e) Maybe then, we could hit your family life – wives, husbands, kids
 - f) Even finish off with Work and how you behave there!
5. So, what would think if I just took this one phrase as a springboard into how you “live” your whole life!
6. Most people would sit there thinking, “How in the world did he get from that phrase to MY WHOLE LIFE? – Gimme a break!” – You took the simple fact that God saved me and made me alive in Christ and now you're railing on my whole life!”

B. OK, I guess I got a little carried away – BUT, Paul did tell me to be a imitator of him! So, look at Colossians 3:!

1. Remember – Paul always has his doctrine section first (Col 1-2) and then his application section (Col 3-4) – usually started with “Therefore”

Col 3: 1 Therefore [since] if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

- a) V.1-4 SUMMARIZE all of Col 3-4
- b) Paul SIMPLY BASED on the FACT that God raise you up and made you alive, LIVE LIKE CHRIST!
- 2. Look at V.5
 - 5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
- 3. V.8
 - Col 3:8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.
- 4. V.12...
 - Col 3:12** ... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
- 5. V.13 = forgiveness
- 6. V.14 = love
- 7. V.15 = peace
- 8. V.17
 - Col 3:17** Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
 - a) Thanks for what?
 - b) MAKING ME ALIVE!
- 9. V.18-4:2 = family, work

C. We're going to stop right here and leave you with the simplicity of your motivation to live godly

- 1. Memorize the phrase "He made you alive together with Him"
- 2. Then spend the whole week reading Col 3-4
- 3. Ponder, Pray, study, meditate on the FACT of LIFE and how it should motivate you TO A WHOLE LIFE of godliness!
- 4. It is no more complicated than this.
- 5. The only thing between you and godliness IS YOU!
- 6. Find out how much you want your sin than you want godliness
- 7. Better yet, find out how much more you want godliness than your sin.