

## Captive through Philosophy vs. Complete in Christ Col 2:8-15 (Part 9)

### I. Introduction

A. ...

### II. Review: Captive through Philosophy & Complete in Christ

**A. TURN TO Col 2:8 and we'll work through it to V.15 and finish the section!**

**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; **11** In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**B. Studying Captive through Philosophy vs. Complete in Christ**

**C. Don't need to review vv.8-12 again**

**D. BUT, Remember - V.9-15 = THE SUFFICIENCY of CHRIST!**

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

**E. V.11-15= three ways in which you are complete BECAUSE HE IS SUFFICIENT.**

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)

### III. 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. Review: 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) = SPIRITUAL DEADNESS -Dead to GOD

(2) =COMPLETELY UTTERLY UNRESPONSIVE to anything SPIRITUAL

b) 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!

**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) 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!
- e) Again – Paul is summarizing something that he spent a LOT of time on in Ephesians
  - (1) Paul is SAYING THE SAME POWER that RAISED and SEATED Christ RAISED and SEATED YOU TOO!
- f) Don't EVER doubt God's Power! The SAME power that raised Christ, raised you!

**IV. New: The Transaction: Forgiveness - Debt nailed to the Cross**

v.13...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. I've been asked: "Are all my sins forgiven? Are there any of my sins that will not be forgiven?"**

- 1. What's Paul's answer here?!!! A: ALL our sins our forgiven!
- 2. What a marvelous, miraculous truth! Beyond imaginable!
- 3. Yes!

Is 1: 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Is 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Ps 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Je 31:34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Ac 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

**Ac 13:38** “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

**Heb 8:10** “FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **11** “AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’ FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. **12** “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”

**Heb 10:12** but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, **13** waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. **14** For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. **15** And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, **16** “THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,” *He then says*, **17** “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.” **18** Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

**B. But – back to Colossians 2:13-14**

1. Paul is going to peel back the onion skin
2. Explaining how/why God was able to make us alive in Christ!

**C. DONE: Having Forgiven**

1. = Past act! DONE!
2. Verb tense says FORGIVENESS occurred BEFORE “made alive” in v.12
  - a) God Forgave you THEN made you alive
  - b) So, many translate v12-13:

**Col 2:13** ... He made you alive together with Him *having* “BECAUSE HE HAS” forgiven us all our transgressions,

- c) IOW –
  - (1) Forgiveness MADE the gift of eternal live possible
  - (2) Forgiveness had to precede /come before the gift of eternal life

**D. GRACIOUS: “forgiven” from the root “GRACE”**

1. = deals with our guilt as sinners
2. = undeserved pardon
3. IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THIS ROOT!

**Tit 3:4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

**E. COMPLETE: “all our transgressions” – WOW!**

1. Note: “all” used 20x in Colossians!
2. = SUFFICIENCY / COMPLETENESS of Christ ALONE throughout WHOLE letter!

3. HERE: ALL your sins our forgiven!
4. "[transgressions](#)" = "to fall beside" – comes from idea of stumbling on something = SIN!

**F. 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us;**

1. Peel back to the next layer!
2. What is the ground of Forgiveness?
3. What had to happen for God to forgive us?
4. Paul says there was an ACT THAT HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT...
5. Paul says you had a debt to God!
6. [14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us](#)
  - a) NKJ: [Col 2:14](#) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us...
  - b) [14 having canceled out](#)= "to wipe off," like erasing a blackboard. Ancient documents were commonly written either on papyrus, a paper-like material made from the bulrush plant, or vellum, which was made from an animal's hide. The ink used then had no acid in it and did not soak into the writing material. Since the ink remained on the surface, it could be wiped off if the scribe wanted to reuse the material.
  - c) [Certificate of debt](#) = "something written with the hand," or "an autograph."
    - (1) =certificate of indebtedness handwritten by the debtor in acknowledgment of his debt.
  - d) [consisting of decrees against us](#) = refers to the Mosaic law per Romans 2:14-15 = essence of the Law
    - (1) We owe God a debt because they have violated His law.
    - (2) One of many ways Scripture talks about our sin before salvation!
  - e) [which was hostile to us](#)
    - (1) = enough to condemn us to judgment and hell,
    - (2) because "[cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them](#)" (Gal. 3:10).
7. Why was God able to erase your debt? Peel back the onion skin one more layer!
8. [having nailed it to the cross.](#)
  - a) Paul: Debt was paid in full by Christ's Death
  - b) Ever see a light post/telephone pole on a busy city sidewalk
    - (1) All covered in layer upon layer of advertisements, notes, signs, etc.
    - (2) That's the picture of the cross here!
  - c) The wages of sin is death, right?
  - d) Christ's death on the cross paid for your sin, your "debt" to God
  - e) God took the record of your debt to Him and nailed to the cross
  - f) = NOTIFICATION that YOUR DEBT is PAID in FULL
  - g) Not a trace of it remains to be held against us. Our forgiveness is complete.

**V. He is Sufficient: In Him you have Complete Victory (v. 15)**

[Col 2:15](#) When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them,

having triumphed over them through Him.

**A. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities**

1. Disarmed = “stripping
2. the rulers and authorities =Satan & fallen angels

**B. He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

1. = picture of a triumphant Roman general,
  - a) parading his defeated captives through the streets of Rome.
  - b) Christ’s victory on the cross defeated the demons attempts to stop Him saving us!
  - c) stripped Satan of his powers.

Heb 2:14 “Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

2. Quote: To worship such defeated and humiliated beings would be the height of folly. The cross is the answer to the Colossian errorists’ insistence on worshiping angelic beings. Through the Lord Jesus and His work on the cross, God canceled the believer’s debt, defeating Satan and his fallen angels. That is why Paul can affirm in Romans 8:37–39, “In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Though we still wrestle against the forces of evil (Eph. 6:12), they cannot be victorious. Christ, the crucified, risen Lord of all, reigns supreme in the universe. To be united with Him is to be free from Satan’s dominion.

**VI. Conclusion**

**A. Again, as last week, how to you apply this?**

**B. We have been forgiven!**

**C. We’re in the Doctrinal section of Colossians – Paul is going to come back to Forgiveness in Chapter 3**

**D. Look at Col 3:13**

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1. 3:13 is in a “corporate” context – Paul is talking to the church as a whole
2. He’s also in “put on” on section

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

3. 3:13 has a different tone than v.12
  - a) It is implied that there is conflict amongst Christians! Wow! (never seen that! 😊)
  - b) V.13 bearing with one another, = literally, “holding yourself back from another”
    - (1) Assumption – Someone has done something and you are ready to “lay into them” verbally or physically
    - (2) Paul: “HOLD yourself BACK!”
    - (3) But then...

4. forgiving each other.

- a) Now the hard part! FORGIVING!
- b) Verb = CONTINUOUS, YOU DO THE ACTION!
- c) This says WE NEVER STOP forgiving!
- d) Most people – I'll forgive you once or twice – after that forget it!
  - (1) I don't want anything to do with you
  - (2) I'm not going to risk being hurt by you again – you've got a track record!
- e) God – You must forgive and forgive and forgive!
  - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 7<sup>th</sup> time, 70<sup>th</sup> time – 7x70th time!
  - (2) In modern speak we'd say 24x7!

5. whoever has a complaint against anyone;

- a) Ever seen this happen? Yes!
- b) Did Paul say to WITHHOLD forgiveness until the other person repents, asks forgiveness, etc.? NO!
- c) Two ways out of here, BOTH still require forgiveness
  - (1) Go down path of Matthew 18
  - (2) Let love cover the sin (1 Peter 4:8)

6. Now the kicker: just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

- a) How did the Lord forgive you? COMPLETELY!
- b) Remember those verses I read before?
  - Ps 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
  - Je 31:34** ... declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
  - Heb 8:12** ... "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."
  - Heb 10:17** ... "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."
- c) Do you forgive like this?
- d) Oh, BTW, forgiving is a COMMAND – not optional!

**E. So, what do we do with the doctrine of Forgiveness?**

- 1. A: we apply it in the same way it was applied to us!
  - Col 3:13** ... forgiving each other...just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

**F. What's the problem if you don't forgive?**

- 1. Obviously, you are NOW IN SIN TOO!
- 2. Up to this point, there might have been only one sinner in the situation – NOW THERE ARE TWO!
- 3. Who is the worse sinner? NEITHER.
- 4. AND, there are other consequences – turn to Eph 4:31

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

- a) Remember – this is a section of Put off/put on / Reason why
- b) V.31 PUT off bitterness wrath anger...
- c) V.32 PUT ON kindness, tender-heartedness, FORGIVENESS
- d) Again – JUST AS God in Christ also has forgiven you!
- e) So, first, the Bible teaches forgiveness te same everywhere!
- f) Second – the construction is important here.

(1) IF you don't PUT ON v.32 (in our case, forgiveness)

(2) THEN, – you're back to the previous verse!

5. You're going to become bitter!

- a) IOW – when you don't forgive, you keep a POISON inside of you
- b) You leave a seed in the soil of your heart that will grow and poison you!
- c) That poison is some form of the "Put off" in v.31!
- d) There is a VERY HIGH PRICE to NOT FULLY FORGIVING!

6. And – that's why the VERB TENSE here is SO IMPORTANT!

- a) Q: Is Forgiveness an EVENT or a PROCESS?
- b) A: BOTH!
- c) STARTS with an EVENT – you have to choose the godly path of FORGIVENESS
- d) You have to FORGIVE
- e) BUT – it is also a PROCESS!

(1) From TWO SIDES

(2) Their side – you may have to forgive 7x70!

(a) Always choosing to forgive NO MATTER how often they sin against you!

(b) Always going BACK into the RING and take another punch!

(3) BUT – from your side,

(a) do you instantly forget a sin against you?

(b) Does the pain instantly go away?

(c) Do the thoughts of hurt melt away immediately?

(d) NO – you have to work at it!

(4) BUT – here's your side...

7. WHEN you say "I FORGIVE YOU" you make a commitment / a promise to

- a) Never speak or use this against you again
- b) Never speak to others about this (gossip)
- c) NEVER DWELL on this – I will work to keep my mind focused on things above and every time this ENTERS my mind – I will STOP it and TURN to the LORD and think biblical thoughts!

8. Do you know what happens then?

- a) With God's help, it DIES WITHIN you
- b) Why? You've NOT FED IT, NOURISHED IT at all
- c) AND you've REPLACED it WITH GODLY thoughts!
- d) Do you see that?

**G. It is SO important to see the NECESSITY OF FORGIVENESS.**

**H. Whenever someone says to me "I have an anger problem" – I immediately think, you PROBABLY also have a FORGIVENESS and BITTERNESS problem**

**I. In fact, if someone almost never or never forgives**

1. They probably aren't a Christian!
2. Why? THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND FORGIVENESS
3. They don't understand HOW MUCH they need / needed forgiveness

**J. In addition – Forgiveness is important to the RECEIVER!**

1. Remember the immoral man of 1 Cor 5
  - a) He was acting immorally with his step mother
  - b) The church at Corinth hadn't church disciplined him
  - c) Paul wrote rather harshly to remove the wicked man from the assembly (he was unrepentant)
  - d) Paul had delivered him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh!
2. Apparently, the church zealously carried out Paul's orders in Chapter 5!
3. They actually OVER-REACTED because the man repented
4. Here's what Paul had to write to them in 2 Cor 2!

**2 Co 2:7** so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. **8** Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him. **9** For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. **10** But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,*

- a) FORGIVE and COMFORT! – OR he might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow!
- b) When you don't forgive, you can CRUSH a person!
- c) Do you see that forgiveness RESTORES your love for the person?
  - (1) V.8 – reaffirm your love for him!
  - (2) MORE THAN words "I forgive"
5. That's where the word "reconciliation" comes in!
  - a) After forgiveness, BE FULLY RECONCILED
  - b) What's reconciled? RESTORE the relationship TO ITS ORIGINAL CLOSENESS
  - c) NOT – just be willing to walk on the same side of the street now and say hello!
  - d) GET back to the relationship you had before!
  - e) Where do we learn that?
    - (1) Christ reconciled us to God!
    - (2) How close is your relationship to God?
    - (3) Does He Hold anything back from you? NO!

(4) So, you do the same to others!

**K. OK – done with this section from v.8-15**

**L. Christ's work on the cross for us =**

1. Complete Salvation
2. Complete Forgiveness
3. Complete Victory
4. IOW – Jesus Christ IS Sufficient!
5. If you ever doubt God – read this section and understand the CERTAINTY you have
  - a) Complete Salvation
  - b) Complete Forgiveness
  - c) Complete Victory
6. We can echo Paul:

[Ga 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.](#)