

Complete Salvation
Colossians 2:11-12
March 4, 2012

Colossians 2:11-12 *In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

I. Circumcision Picture

Note: Apparently, Paul emphasizes circumcision here because the false teachers were teaching that circumcision was the practice unto salvation. Paul wanted to correct the teaching that the physical act of circumcision (and baptism) is not what saves us but in Christ alone.

- You do not need to be circumcised since you have been baptized
- Circumcised without human hands

Romans 2:25-28 *Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. ²⁶If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? ²⁷The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. ²⁸A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical*

Note: Paul is making his arguments based on the Scripture (OT).

- If you were circumcised and kept the law = you're doing good!
- If you were circumcised and broke the law = worthless

Jeremiah 9:25 *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh."*

- If you haven't been circumcised and kept the law = you're doing good!
- The issue Paul talks about is the heart, not the physical act

Jeremiah 4:4 *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or My wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it.*

- Stiff-necked hearts are uncircumcised hearts (stubborn or hard-heartedness)

Deuteronomy 10:16 *Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.*

- God circumcises the 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.*

Note: God circumcises our hearts so that we can love Him. An uncircumcised heart is the one that hates God and His ways.

- Circumcision was an outward sign that shows what happens in the heart.

Romans 4:11a *And he [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.*

- Circumcision done by Christ
 - Done at the cross
 - What does this spiritual circumcision do?
 - Putting off of the sinful nature
 - Idea is cutting off, taking away, the old nature
 - Seen graphically in the cutting away the foreskin
 - New heart

Ezekiel 11:19 *I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

- Complete and effective removal of sinful nature
 - Think about Jesus' physical healing of people
 - Every time He healed, He healed perfectly and wholly

Matthew 12:13 *Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.*

Matthew 15:31 *So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.*

Mark 3:5 *And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

John 7:23 *If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?*

Note: If Jesus could heal physical problems completely and wholly, then how much more can our hearts be healed? We cannot be "more saved" because we have been "all saved".

II. Baptism Picture

- Water baptism does not save you anymore than circumcision saves you
- Through faith
 - We are saved through faith

Romans 4:11a *And he [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.*

- Crucified and buried with Christ

Colossians 2:12 *having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

Romans 6:3-11 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. ¹⁰The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- Body of sin might be done away with (destroyed)
- Freed from sin? No—we still carry it in our body (which has not been redeemed yet)
- Freed from the consequences of sin

Romans 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death*

- Sin has hold on all people and kills them once
- Christ died once to sin

Romans 6:10 *The death He died, He died to sin once for all*

- Death no longer holds Christ because of the resurrection

Romans 6:9 *For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him.*

- When we have place our faith in Christ Jesus, we have died to sin

Romans 6:6 *For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with*

Romans 6:8 *Now if we died with Christ*

- Sin no longer has any hold on us because we have died to sin through our faith in Christ Jesus

Note: A picture—sins will accuse us and demand that we pay for what we have done (death); however, I can tell sin, “No, I have already died to sin with Jesus Christ once for all because He is resurrected by the power of God, death, sin, Satan no longer has any power or claim over Him and over me.”

- We have obtained new life in Christ
 - We have been raised with Him
 - Trough the power of God
 - Resurrection is the new life

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.