

## Made Alive; Colossians 2:9-13

### I. Dead

#### A. "Dead in your trespasses"

1. This idea comes from Genesis 2
2. Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

#### B. Spiritual death not physical death

1. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit they did not die a physical death, but the sin separated them from God — it was a spiritual death
2. Genesis 3:6–7 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
3. It was this separation from God — this spiritual death — that forced God to remove them from the Garden
4. Genesis 3:22–24 (ESV); <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

#### C. In order to escape this spiritual death we must be "in Him"

### II. In Him

#### A. Paul uses the phrases "in Him" and "with Him" six times in these 5 verses

#### B. Colossians 2:9–10 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

#### C. The New American Standard Bible translates verse 10 as, "and in Him you have been made complete"

1. To be complete is to be saved
2. We are incomplete without Christ
3. There is a void, or emptiness, in us without Christ
4. Our souls long to be with the Father — but often we choose to replace Him with other things — drugs, alcohol, sex, money, power, fame
5. The people of Athens had this emptiness that they tried to fill with philosophy
6. Acts 17:16-28
7. We think these things will fill that void that sin created — but only Christ fills that void
8. Ephesians 1:11–14 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

#### D. How do we fill the void?

#### E. We must be "in Him" or "made complete"

### III. Circumcision

#### A. Colossians 2:11–12 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

- <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
- B. Circumcision belonged to the Abrahamic covenant and the Mosaic Law (Genesis 17:12-14)
1. In order to be a part of the promise of Abraham all males were circumcised on the 8th day of their lives
  2. If they were not circumcised they were “cut off from his people” (verse 14)
  3. God sought to kill Moses because of circumcision
  4. Exodus 4:24–26 (ESV); <sup>24</sup> At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. <sup>25</sup> Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!” <sup>26</sup> So he let him alone. It was then that she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision.
- C. What is it about circumcision that made God want to kill Moses right after giving him purpose (to free the Israelites from bondage)
1. Perhaps it is related to this idea expressed in our text — baptism
  2. “In the New Testament the Jewish ritual of circumcision is replaced by that of baptism. New believers are not circumcised into the people of God. Rather, they are baptized into the people of God. Baptism serves the same function as circumcision, that is, of marking people as belonging to God, as having been brought into a covenant of costly grace.” <sup>1</sup> (Steve Rodeheaver, Copyright © 2011, Steve Rhodeheaver and CRI/Voice, Institute)
  3. It seems that Moses was struggling with his new purpose — he had not completely given himself over to the idea of being God’s deliverer
  4. This is borne out in Moses’ arguments against God’s choice of deliverer (himself)
  5. Steve Rodeheaver calls it an “identity death” <sup>2</sup>
- D. God seeks our death as well — we must “die to ourselves,” “deny [ourselves] and take up [our] cross daily”
1. Those who are “in Him” have experienced this identity death, which comes with a burial and resurrection
  2. Romans 6:7 (ESV); For one who has died has been set free from sin.
  3. We have been both buried and raised with Him through baptism
  4. But only through faith in the powerful working of God — faith that says we trust God and His promise of forgiveness because of the resurrection of His son, Jesus the Messiah
  5. Since God raised up Jesus, he will also raise us up as well
- E. The very definition of “made alive!”
- IV. Made Alive
- A. We are no longer “dead in our trespasses” (sins)
  - B. We have been made perfect — complete — through Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection
  - C. The void is filled!
  - D. We have been raised to walk in newness of life — we have clothed ourselves with Christ
  - E. Is God still seeking your (identity) death?

---

<sup>1</sup> Rodeheaver, Steve. “Exodus 4:18-31: God Seeks Moses’ Life.” The Voice, Christian Resource Institute, 8 Nov. 2011, [www.crivoice.org/biblestudy/exodus/bbex7.html](http://www.crivoice.org/biblestudy/exodus/bbex7.html).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid