

RCMI L-Path Teaching
November 20, 2022

TITLE: HIS ALL-SUFFICIENT SUFFERING

TEXT: Colossians 2: 13-15

BIG IDEA: Through Christ's death and resurrection, we have received new life, forgiveness, and victory over the forces of evil.

INTRODUCTION:

- "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection." - *Watchman Nee*
- Paul continues to show the all-sufficiency of Christ over everything else, including the rules-keeping religion of the false teachers.
- Empty religion has no saving power, but Christ crucified and risen from the dead is all-powerful.

Colossians 2: 13-15 [NLT]

- Paul is showing that... ***Because Christ died and is risen, in Him, we have a new life, the forgiveness of all our sins, and victory over the forces of evil.***
- Verses 13-15 rest on the truth that Paul mentioned in verse 12: Baptism pictured our salvation when we died with Christ, and God raised us with Him when He raised Him from the dead. Through God's grace in saving us, we are identified with Jesus in His death and resurrection.

Through The Death And Resurrection Of Jesus Christ, We Received:

I. New Life [Colossians 2: 12-13a]

There are three truths to grasp here:

A. Apart from Christ, we were spiritually dead.

- Paul used the word "dead" to describe our condition before we met Christ.
- Death in the Bible always means separation, not cessation.
- Paul says that we were spiritually dead because of *two causes: the sins we have committed; and the sinful nature which we got at birth that we inherited from Adam*. When Adam sinned, his sin was imputed to the entire human race (Rom. 5:12-21). We aren't sinners because we sin; we sin because, by nature, we are sinners.

B. Christ's resurrection is the basis for our resurrection because we are in Him through faith.

- In Colossians 2:12, Paul states, "And with Him, you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the

dead.” But even our faith does not originate with us; it is God’s gift (Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:29).

- So in verse 13, Paul attributes our new life totally to God: “Then God made you alive with Christ.”
- Either you’re spiritually dead in Adam or alive in Christ because God made you alive. There are no other categories.

C. Only God can raise the dead.

- “*Then God made you alive with Christ...*” (Col. 2:13a). Becoming a Christian isn’t a matter of deciding to turn over a new leaf. It isn’t a self-improvement project or a resolution to try harder. No amount of persuasion can talk a spiritual corpse into spiritual life because dead sinners cannot understand God’s truth (1 Cor. 2:14). God must impart new life to a dead sinner by His power.
- You may ask, “How can I know if I have a spiritual life?”
- Spiritually, there are some vital signs. You have a heart for the things of God which used to bore you. You love Jesus because He died for your sins. You have a hunger for God’s Word.

II. Forgiveness

- Colossians 2:13b-14: “Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

A. To save us, God had to deal with the penalty for our sins in line with His righteousness and justice.

- We all have what Paul calls “*the record of the charges against us.*” We come before the bench of God’s judgment as lawbreakers with thousands of counts against us! God cannot just forgive us without the penalty being paid.
- When Paul mentions “*the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us, [NIV],*” **he’s referring to the commandments of God’s law.** That law is against us because it justly condemns us. After all, we’ve broken it repeatedly.
- *God’s law is hostile to us because it condemns us all as guilty. So, how can we escape the condemnation of God’s holy law?*

B. On the cross, Christ ultimately paid the debt that we owe.

- Paul piles up terms to reinforce this wonderful truth. First, he says God “*forgave all of our sins.*” “Forgiveness” comes from the Greek word for “grace.” It means that God grants forgiveness as a free gift, not a payment to those who earn it. You can’t get forgiveness by doing penance or promising to try harder. It’s a gift that you can only receive.

- But how can God do that and still be just and righteous? The answer is, “He took it away by nailing it to the cross.”(Col. 2:14). On the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for every sinner who trusts in Him. By Jesus paying the penalty, God can be both “just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26).

III. Victory [over the forces of evil]

Col. 2:15: “In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

- “*By His victory over them on the cross,*” God took what looked like Satan’s most significant moment of triumph, the death of the sinless Lord of glory, and turned it into Satan’s most significant defeat. On the cross, Jesus accomplished perfect redemption for all of His people. We were captives in Satan’s domain of darkness, but through Jesus’ death, God rescued us (Col. 1:13).
- So when the enemy accuses you, tell him to take it up with Jesus and His shed blood. [James 4:7] Satan has no power over us because Jesus died and was raised on our behalf.

CHALLENGE

- “Come, and see the victories of the cross. Christ's wounds are thy healings, His agonies thy repose, His conflicts thy conquests, His groans thy songs, His pains thine ease, His shame thy glory, His death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation.” - *Matthew Henry.*
- Dead religion cannot give new life. It can’t forgive your sins. It can’t defeat the devil. The crucified and risen Savior can. Trust in Him and enjoy life, forgiveness, and victory!

DISCUSSION:

- Do you agree that empty religion has no saving power, but Christ crucified and risen from the dead is all-powerful?
- Share the three beautiful blessings we received through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [New life, forgiveness, and victory]
- What are the two amazing truths about the forgiveness of sins through Christ? Share.
- Do you believe that as children of God, we are already assured of victory through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Share.