



## Nailed to the Cross (Colossians 2:11-15)

### Something Was Taken Out of the Way

“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, **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. And **you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him**, having forgiven you all trespasses, having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them**, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:11-15 NKJV

### Colossians 2:11-15

- ☑ *“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, **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."*

*Colossians 2:11-12 NKJV*

### **Legalism**

- The practice of adding anything to the free gift of salvation by grace through faith.
- "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together,** and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift** of God, **not of works,** lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:4-10 NKJV
- Even if what you are adding to your faith is a good thing, something God wants you to do, a law that God requires you to obey, if you believe you must do it to

receive or maintain your eternal redemption, then it is legalism.

- ☑ Legalism is sometimes called “deeds of law or works of law” in the New Testament.
- ☑ CONTRAST: Doers of Law vs. Works of Law
  - ☑ “(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the **doers of the law will be justified;**”  
Romans 2:13 NKJV
  - ☑ “Therefore by the **deeds [works] of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20 NKJV
  - ☑ “knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ,** even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law;** for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**”  
Galatians 2:16 NKJV
  - ☑ The “doers of the law” (will be justified) is a phrase that equates to “by faith in Christ” (you will be justified). The only way to “do the law” is by radical, grace-empowered, faith-based obedience! (And that only available through faith in Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit.

- ☑ But be not mistaken, your grace-empowered faith does not release you from the obligation to obey God's commands. Instead, grace empowers you to be successful in your practice of obeying God's commands. Your required obedience does not change, just your power to do so.
- ☑ Think about it! If Christians are the only ones empowered by God to obey Him, why would we think there is no requirement to do so! But here's the rub, obedience is not the cause; it's the effect!
- ☑ Nothing can be added to Christ crucified and the free gift of faith that leads to your born again experience.
- ☑ If you do, then you are saying His sacrifice was not enough, and that something more than His blood is necessary.
- ☑ Obedience: Everything you must do for God, both those things required by law and those things God leads you to do personally, are the RESULT of your redemption by the blood, not the CAUSE.
- ☑ **Circumcision of the Flesh**
  - ☑ Removal of the foreskin as a sign of the covenant of faith.
  - ☑ "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **Every male**

**child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh** of your foreskins, and it shall be a **sign of the covenant** between Me and you. He who is **eight days** old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.” Genesis 17:10-12 NKJV

☑ Y’shua was circumcised on the eighth day...

☑ “And when **eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child**, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.” Luke 2:21 NKJV

#### ☑ **Circumcision made without hands**

☑ Circumcision of the heart... a heart change that makes the heart soft and pliable. A heart prepared by God to accept His grace.

☑ “For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, **your circumcision has become uncircumcision**. Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, **will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?** And will not **the physically uncircumcised**, if he fulfills the law, judge you who,

even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, **nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;** but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; **and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit,** not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

Romans 2:25-29 NKJV

- ☑ If you fall short even once in your obedience to God, then physical circumcision can't save you. Why?
- ☑ It is only one of many laws and if you transgress even one, then your debt as a sinner will land you in the same place as someone who has not received physical circumcision (pagans).
- ☑ However, if your heart is circumcised, it counts the same as physical circumcision, but also affords you a much greater advantage.
- ☑ It means you are empowered by the same grace that circumcised your heart to also obey God. And it affords you a do-over option when you fall short!
- ☑ As such, you can see the superiority of a circumcised heart over physical circumcision.
- ☑ Does that mean we are no longer in need of physical circumcision? No, it just means we are now

empowered to live in such a way that our physical circumcision does not become uncircumcision!

- ☑ Remember—the faith came BEFORE physical circumcision and circumcision was given as a sign of that faith!
- ☑ “Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? **While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had **while still uncircumcised**, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, **and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith** which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.” Romans 4:9-12 NKJV
- ☑ Takeaway: Physical circumcision without faith is useless; circumcision because of faith is *“a seal of the righteousness of that faith.”*

- ☑ Circumcision of the Heart is not New to the New Testament! It's always been about the heart.
- ☑ “And the Lord your God **will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.” Deuteronomy 30:6 NKJV
- ☑ “For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: “Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. **Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts,** You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.”” Jeremiah 4:3-4 NKJV
- ☑ “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; **I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV
- ☑ **Baptism**
- ☑ The symbolic gesture of dying with Christ, being buried with Christ and resurrecting with Christ.



- ☑ “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” I Peter 3:21 NKJV
- ☑ Baptism, like Circumcision, is a sign.
- ☑ “and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **it shall be a sign of the covenant** between Me and you.” Genesis 17:11 NKJV
- ☑ “And he received **the sign of circumcision**, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised...” Romans 4:11 NKJV
- ☑ “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19 NKJV
- ☑ “Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38 NKJV
- ☑ “For **as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**” Galatians 3:27 NKJV
- ☑ Baptism is symbolic...
- ☑ “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who

died to sin live any longer in it? **Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**"

Romans 6:1-4 NKJV

- ☑ The Spring Feasts of the Lord
  - ☑ Passover: death—going into the water
  - ☑ Unleavened Bread: burial—under the water
  - ☑ Firstfruits: resurrection—raising out of the water
  
- ☑ *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**"* Colossians 2:13-14 NKJV
- ☑ **You were dead and He made you alive!**
  - ☑ You did nothing and He birthed you out of death....
  - ☑ "Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith **into this grace in**

**which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. **Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ **died for the ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:1-10 NKJV

- ☑ When we were still without strength...He died for the ungodly!
- ☑ While we were still sinners...He died for us!
- ☑ When we were still enemies...He reconciled us!
- ☑ You see? He made us alive...we did nothing for it!

- ☑ **He wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us...taken it out of the way!**
- ☑ The requirement was that you must obey God's commands in order to be right with God. By definition, disobedience is sin. And if you sin you die. So the law is against you in this regard.
- ☑ Sin is Lawlessness
  - ☑ "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**" 1 John 3:4 NKJV
- ☑ The law was codified so you could recognize what a dreadful sinner you are.
- ☑ "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. **For apart from the law sin was dead.** I was alive once without the law, **but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.**

Therefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.**" Romans 7:7-12 NKJV

- ☑ Sin is defined by the law, so without the law you could not know sin.
- ☑ In other words, sin is as good as dead, unless something reveals what sin is. "*Sin is lawlessness.*"
- ☑ Therefore, in order for sin to be sin, it had to be defined and catalogued so we would all know what sin is. (It's important to recognize that the law was there from the beginning, but prior to being codified at Mount Sinai, man had plausible deniability.)
- ☑ And when that it was codified, it did what the law does. It killed me. In other words, when I came face to face with God's commands, it made my sin obvious.
- ☑ Now, don't take that the wrong way. That does not make the law bad. Quite to the contrary, "*the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good*" because it leads me to know that without Christ the law would bring death and therefore I NEED Christ.
- ☑ What did Christ do?

- ☑ He wiped out the requirement? Which requirement? The need to obey God's laws? No! The requirement that if you sin you die! He did two things for us. He took the penalty for our sin and He empowered us to obey!
- ☑ Propitiation: He put Himself in our place!
  - ☑ "And He Himself is **the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." I John 2:2 NKJV
  - ☑ Because sin is lawlessness, and lawlessness has a cost, and that cost required a life, someone had to pay that price. Christ paid it for us! *"He has taken it out of the way, having **nailed it to the cross.**"*
- ☑ And suddenly we go from incapable to capable of fulfilling requirements...how?
  - ☑ "that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:4 NKJV
    - ☑ By walking according to the Spirit!!
    - ☑ And what is the by product of that?
- ☑ Do not sin!
  - ☑ "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is

no sin. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin.** Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **He who sins is of the devil,** for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin,** for His seed remains in him; and **he cannot sin,** because he has been born of God." I John 3:4-9 NKJV

- ☑ When you abide in Christ you are empowered to NOT sin!
- ☑ Sin is of the devil and Y'shua came to destroy the works of the devil.
- ☑ Those born of God do not/cannot sin!
- ☑ So how can we explain what is happening when "we" sin?
- ☑ It's not you! Who then? And why?
- ☑ Who? "But now, **it is no longer I** who do it, but sin that dwells in me." Romans 7:17 NKJV
- ☑ Why? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**" II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

- ☑ Go and sin no more!
  - ☑ “When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”**”  
John 8:10-11 NKJV
  - ☑ “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**” I John 3:4 NKJV
    - ☑ How can we go and sin no more?
    - ☑ How can we stop our lawlessness?
- ☑ When you are born-again....
  - ☑ ““For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. {14} **But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it** [*obey God’s commands*].”  
Deuteronomy 30:11, 14 NKJV
  - ☑ “But what does it say? **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):**” Romans 10:8 NKJV
    - ☑ The word of faith preached by Paul is that when you are born gain and your heart is circumcised you will obey God’s commands.



☑ **He nailed it to the cross!**

☑ Do you see it now! What did He nail to the cross? The Law? No! He nailed your weakness to obey, and your hatred for what it commands, and the penalty for when you fall short!

☑ ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**”  
Matthew 5:17 NKJV

☑ “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body **through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.**” Ephesians 2:14-16 NKJV

☑ O wretched am than I am...

☑ “For **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin** which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?** I thank God—through **Jesus Christ**

our Lord! So then, **with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.**" Romans 7:22-25 NKJV

- ☑ There are now two of you!
- ☑ One new creature love God's laws.
- ☑ The old creature loves sin!

☑ ***"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."***  
*Colossians 2:15 NKJV*

☑ **Two types of principalities and powers, both of which Y'shua defeated openly—made a public spectacle!**

- ☑ Principalities and Powers—Spirit Hosts!
- ☑ "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,** against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against **spiritual hosts** of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJV

- ☑ Y'shay made a public spectacle of demonic powers...
- ☑ "Then one was brought to Him who was **demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him,** so

that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. **And all the multitudes were amazed** and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” Now when **the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”** But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: **“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”** Matthew 12:22-25 NKJV

- ☑ Y’shua disarmed demons often, and in this the above example He disarmed the human hosts as well!
- ☑ Principalities and Powers—Human Hosts!
- ☑ “And **no one was able to answer Him a word**, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.” Matthew 22:46 NKJV
- ☑ “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore **whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.**” Matthew 23:2-3 NKJV
- ☑ “**“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you

neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." Matthew 23:13 NKJV

- ☑ He openly silenced the religious hypocrites!
- ☑ He made a public spectacle of the scribes and Pharisees!
- ☑ See [The Hypocrititudes](#)

### **NEXT TEACHING**

Let No One Judge You? (Colossians 2:16-23)