MESSAGE OUTLINE



COLOSSIANS 2:11-23 NKJV

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. 13 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, 14 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. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations– 21"Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using–according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

INTRODUCTION

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God, who is above ALL things. All things have been created through Him and for Him. And by coming in the flesh, dwelling among us, His death on the cross, being raised from the dead–begins the redemption of the UNIVERSE, starting and continuing right now within us.

Jesus is LORD (YAHWEH).

YAHWEH said he was the I AM. Jesus also called Himself the I AM. (Ex 3:14–15; Jn 8:58)
YAHWEH is the Shepherd. Jesus also called Himself the Shepherd. (Ps 23:1; Jn 10:11)
YAHWEH is the Light. Jesus also called Himself the Light. (Ps 27:1; Jn 8:12)
YAHWEH is the Rock. Jesus also called Himself the Rock. (Ps 18:2; Mt 7:24)
YAHWEH is the Judge. Jesus also called Himself the Judge. (Jl 3:12; Jn 5:22)
YAHWEH said His words will never pass away. Jesus also said His words will never pass away. (Is 40:8; Mk 13:31)
YAHWEH is the first and the last. Jesus also called Himself the first and the last. (Is 48:12; Rv 1:17–18)

Do you believe Jesus is YAHWEH, *THE* LORD, savior of the world?

RE-VEALED (vv.11-14)

Circumcision was a Jewish custom that initiated a covenant between God and His people. It set apart God's people, but was hate and bullying, now within God's own people.

Enslaved in Egypt, Moses frees them and God makes another covenant, the Mosaic covenant.
Now they have a bunch of rules to follow for their life.

"All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." (Exodus 24:7) **They failed to be obedient.**

The observance of the Law was not just for them: *Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?* **Deuteronomy 4:6-7**

God wanted the WORLD to see how loving His people were and how loving He was of them.

So God starts over, from the beginning to redo, or rather outdo, both covenants.

Paul talks about a new circumcision, a removal, not of just skin, but of the whole body of flesh.
Like the Ephesians, we were dead in trespasses and sins, they and also you, were the walking dead.

We like Jonah, dead, cried out to the Lord, and He heard our voice (Jonah 2:2) and saved us.
Sometimes we have a hard time calling upon the name of the Lord and don't pray.
I am convinced that this is the power and delusion of Satan.

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith,
1 Peter 5:7-9

Just faith, is the answer in those situations. Not rules. It doesn't matter how you pray, when you pray, where you pray, or even why you pray. Just pray. **Did you know that the most simple prayer can be answered?**

Remember, you are praying to your Father. He is there, and He cares for you and wants to help you.

RE-MOVED (vv.14b-15)

The rules of living according to God, being nailed to the cross. The consequences for falling short no longer apply. They die with the flesh hung dead on the cross.

Why? When Jesus was on the cross, a sign above indicated His crime: King of Jews.

Our sin on the cross was a public declaration of our crime and taking our punishment upon Him. The crime has been paid in full by Jesus by His death. He is still alive.

Paul declares: *O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"* **1 Corinthians 15:55**

Nothing! Nothing can take Jesus away from you! Romans 8:38b-39

This is what the authentic Christian believes. There are no rules. Faith makes salvation a done deal.

Ephesians 2:14–15, Jesus has removed the dividing wall, the enmity that was caused by the Law.
All people, whosoever will, can come to Jesus.

RE-ASSURED (vv. 16-19)

Paul does not want us to be affected by criticism or scammed by any new religious rules for life.
Paul's first instruction is to not let anyone judge you.

So-called Christians make cults that are full of rules and regulations that have nothing to do with being saved by faith alone.

Christians bully their own brothers and sisters in Christ for not agreeing with them. They also do not believe a person is saved by faith alone in Christ alone.

Also other religious groups look to the Bible as one authority, but add more authority. Making them distinct from authentic Christ followers.

These groups have some kind of "angelic revelation" or "spiritual communication" or prophecy, outside of what the Bible teaches. That's their trick.

So this is Paul's second instruction: Do not let anyone scam you and cheat you.
Thus, this is another failure to believe in faith alone, in Christ alone.

"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand." **Romans 14:4**

How should you handle such opposition when it comes? You need to be a ***Care Less Christian***. *Care less* about how others judge you. *Care less* about any kind of rules that people place upon you.

Look confidently upon the one who paid it all, Jesus Christ, and be set free.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. **Galatians 5:1**

RE-DONE (vv. 20-21)
When Adam and Eve had sinned, they were spiritually dead, and God covered them with skin.
Paul calls this body of flesh, our sinful nature, and we inherited it from Adam.

This flesh is now being removed. We can now live as before the fall, redeemed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness. **Isaiah 61:10**

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." **Revelation 2:7**

And it goes beyond that. Because Christ has victory over not just sin, but came and crushed the head of Satan. So that never again, can he come and scam us with rules of do not eat this or that.

But that is the future. **What about right now? Can we really live any way we want to?**

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 6:1b-4**

The problem with indulging in the flesh is not that it disqualifies you from salvation, the problem is that through the power of your mortal flesh, it grows. And as it grows, the more disconnected you become from both God and others, in your sin. Looking like the walking dead, unrecognizable as a Christ follower–like the rest of the world.

The parallel to Deuteronomy 4:6-7 is John 13:34-35: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* **John 13:34-35**

THIS is what the Lord expects of us authentic Christians: to show the world how we love each other and how GOOD our God is.

INVITATION
Jesus says, Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Do you (your body) need rest? Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for He takes away the heavy burdens and **you are set free.** Then, you will be alive in the spirit. Let us walk in the Spirit.

Jesse Mark Cesario
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