

# THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

## The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

### *What Would Jesus Do?—Then Let Him Do It!*

Colossians 2: 9-15

**Introduction:** As we move into the specific issues Paul will address regarding false teaching, we must surmise the questions. Paul gives answers to issues that concerned Epaphras and the church: what we have in his letter to the Colossians are the answers, we are missing the specific questions. It appears that the first question Paul addresses is, “How do I become mature as a Christian so as to please God in the things I do?” For many, including the false teachers of Paul’s day, the answer is to follow a system of spiritual regimentation and strict discipline. This is not Paul’s inspired advice. As we begin to study his answer to this question we must also realize that all spiritual growth, including initial salvation, develops in a particular way: (1) truth is presented which is witnessed internally by the Holy Spirit, (2) we accept the truth we hear as being true in fact, (3) we trust God to apply the truth in our life and submit to Him in abiding trust (faith). In this first part of Paul’s answer we will consider the truths he presents which we must accept and believe by faith.

#### **I. Three Primary Truths—The Starting Point for Godly Behavior**

##### **A. In Him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form (v.9)**

Jesus is fully God (and fully man) and in His human body He lived a sinless life empowered by the Holy Spirit. Therefore it is possible to live godly in this present bodily life.

##### **B. In Him you have been made complete (v.10)**

In coming to Him for forgiveness and new life with God we have actually been made complete right here and now (perfect passive participle). We do not need to have any thing added to us, nor do we need any new equipment now or ever: we are complete in Jesus (spirit, soul, and body). 2 Cor 5:17 [And He has all authority, so He cannot be overruled or overpowered!]

##### **C. In Him you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands (v.10)**

This is an accomplished fact performed in us through the cross that dealt a death blow to the sin nature and rendered it powerless to control us any longer.

#### **II. Spiritual Circumcision: Expansion & Application**

##### **A. The historical introduction of the special mark and the type of the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

1. Genesis 17 describes the occasion when God instructed Abram to be circumcised and to circumcise all the males in his household.
2. At this moment Abram and Sarai had name changes to Abraham & Sarah, which in Hebrew was the simple addition of the “breath mark”—the “Breath of God”
3. At this moment the deeds of the flesh were rejected (Ishmael) and the child of promise was affirmed at a time when Abraham and Sarah were powerless to conceive and give birth in their natural strength.

##### **B. Circumcision is the divine type of the giving of the Holy Spirit to do in and through us all that which cannot be accomplished in our natural strength.**

##### **C. In Christ’s death on the cross our flesh was destroyed (rendered powerless—Rom. 6:1-12) and we were cleansed and made ready for the indwelling Presence of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit.**

#### **III. The True Effects of the Cross in Our Life**

##### **A. Christ’s death on the cross destroyed the power of the flesh (vv.11-12)**

##### **B. In the resurrection we were made alive in Him (vv.13-14)**

##### **C. All charges against us, now and forever, have been dropped and there remains no basis for accusation against us by anyone (vv.13b-14)**

##### **D. The powers of darkness have been utterly defeated and left exposed and shamed (v15)**

**Conc:** True spirituality and Christ-like living begins when we believe these truths by faith. Do you believe in your heart that what God has said here is true?

#### **Study Text**

#### **Colossians 2:9-15**

*For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) Why does Paul emphasize that the fullness of deity dwelt in Christ in **BODILY** form?
  
- 2.) Explain the implications of all the fullness of deity dwelling in Christ. What does that say about us?
  
- 3.) What does it mean to be *complete* in Christ?
  
- 4.) How does cancellation of the certificate of debts against us help us in dealing with temptation?
  
- 5.) At what point in the life of Abram and Sarai did the impossible and miraculous begin?
  
- 6.) What is the *impossible* for us? How does it become possible in Christ?

### NOTES

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