



4/6/26

What a wonderful Easter celebration we had yesterday!!! The best part is that at least 25 adults and 15 children gave their hearts to Jesus. More reason why His death and resurrection were not in vain. I hope you had a wonderful day. As Tim said at the end of the service, we still have 364 more days to celebrate our Savior's resurrection and all that it means.

*Happy Resurrection Day!
Jonna*

Colossians 2:8-15

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! And that changes EVERYTHING. I want to start with vs. 15 today and work my way backwards because vs. 15 is the reason I can celebrate the rest of the passage.

Vs. 15 says, "He, Jesus, disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame by triumphing over them in Him." How did Jesus disarm the devil who is also called "the liar and father of lies... the prince of the power of the air... the evil one... the accuser... the serpent"? Jesus allowed that serpent to bruise His heel, but by His death... Jesus crushed the devil's head! He put him to open shame because his plan to kill the Messiah, the Lamb of God, my Savior, FAILED. Jesus rose from the dead!!!

There's an old Carman song called, The Champion. In it, Carman describes a boxing match between Jesus and the devil. At the end, Carman says that Jesus dropped His arms, and the devil gave the final blow that dropped Him to the ground... in death. BUT THEN... the devil and his demons freak out because instead of starting the 10 count of defeat with 1, God counted backwards. Jesus rose from the dead and at the number one, the whole crowd cries out, "He has won!!! Satan is defeated and Jesus is the CHAMPION!" The fight was long and painful... but its end was never really in question. God was ALWAYS going to win.

The beautiful news is that Jesus defeated the devil and death to do something I never deserved. When He defeated Satan, I was on the devil's side. I should go down with him. But

vs. 13-14 tells me that Jesus did something for me... even though I was dead in all my sins and "the uncircumcision of my flesh," which means that I was living for my flesh and had no interest in the Lord... Jesus took me from death and made me alive with Christ... by His wounds I am healed. He forgave me all my sins. The punishment I deserve was placed on Jesus.

I was born with a debt for sin. It was passed down to me from Adam through every generation. Then I added to the debt with every act not done in faith. Jesus cancelled the record of that debt, and all the legal penalties that went with it. And as Hebrews 10:21 says, "Where there is forgiveness of these (debts), there is no longer any offering for sin."

It's like walking into a bank to beg them to let me set up some kind of million year payment plan for a debt that I don't have the ability to pay... feeling the fear of having my home go into foreclosure and them come to throw me into prison... and the loan officer says, "Ma'am, your debt has been paid. You don't owe anything." I could stand there and argue with the loan officer about how I do have that debt while he shows me the record that my debt has been paid. Or I can leave that bank and live in gratitude for that incredible person who paid my debt. This debt of mine was nailed to the cross with Jesus... all the legal demands are gone... I cannot incur more debt because my benefactor has covered all my past, present, and future debt.

So... death has been destroyed. The enemy who loves to help me incur debt has been destroyed. My debt is gone. My death is done. I am alive with Jesus. I will never be held responsible for my debt again. How did God make me alive together with Christ so that I would never face the penalty Jesus faced for me? Circumcision of the flesh. What?

Circumcision is a cutting away of flesh. In the Old Testament, circumcision was the cutting away of flesh on all the Jewish males to show that they were the chosen people of God. My circumcision is far more impactful. Through Jesus having His flesh ripped away for me when He was crucified and buried, I was buried with Him and raised with Him. I did nothing to deserve this. The only thing I did was believe that Jesus' sacrifice covered my sin, and that the Father's power raised His Son from the dead... and through Him raised me also.

Let me not miss this. My salvation WAS a debt I couldn't pay. Though it cost me nothing, it cost Jesus everything. He gave me new life. He gave me hope. He gave me freedom. As vs. 10 says, I have been "filled in Him who is the head of all rule and authority." The benefits I receive for being a follower of Jesus Christ have nothing to do with me being good enough or deserving them. But God is so good.

In light of who God is and all that He's done for me, I need to keep my eyes on Him. Jesus is the Christ. He is the epitome of the fullness of God. He is the head of all rule and authority. If I believe that, I need to keep my attention set on Him... to receive His supplies for what I need to accomplish His will... and to receive instructions about what that will His. Him for me. Him in charge.

The fact is, there are philosophies and traditions of man and elementary spirits of the world who try to take me captive through deception. Philosophies try to define life without God. Human traditions try to make it all about self and not the Lord... even when they use plausible words of wisdom or scripture taken out of context to do it. Elemental spirits or principles of the world try to make up rules that distract us from the truth of who God is. Christ is the only one whose authority is used to save me, to give me life, to give me true freedom, to help me see that the enemy is as good as dead... it's just a matter of time.

I need to "see to it" that I don't get caught up in deception. See to it. Pay attention. The tempter will always try to draw me away from God. I have to be intentional to pay attention to Jesus. The way I escape captivity is by staying close to my deliverer, by keeping my eyes on Him, by living for His purpose.

Now going in order of this passage from beginning to end...

- *Pay attention to Jesus.*
- *As I fix my eyes on Him, those things that seek to take me captive will have no power.*
- *Remember who Jesus is... God Himself... the head of ALL rule and authority. Because He's in charge, the enemy cannot win.*
- *Recognize what He's done for me... He died and rose again. He canceled my debt by paying for it on the cross. He conquered death.*

The only direct command I see in this passage is to "see to it" that I don't get caught up into lies. Jesus does the rest. My salvation is from Him. My victory is from Him. Forgiveness is from Him. I definitely see that I get the better end of this deal!

Jesus is alive. And because He lives, I live. So I will, by faith, pay attention and live for Him.