**Colossians Chapter 2 Part 3**

**Colossians 2:11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision **made without hands**, in **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** by the **circumcision of Christ**:

* Your spiritual soul is stuck to your literal, fleshy body when you are born. Being born “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1–5), you are “joined” to your flesh (Rom. 7:5).
* Before Adam fell, the soul was loose. Even if it had been joined to “the flesh,” it would have mattered little, for Adam’s flesh was sinless until the fall. When Adam’s spirit died, the soul found itself wedded (Rom. 7:1–4) to a body of rotting flesh (Rom. 7:25).
* When the soul is cut loose, it can remarry (Rom. 7:1–4), for it is placed “in the Spirit” (Rom. 8:9–10). The Christian’s spirit has been joined to Christ’s Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17) at the time of the circumcision. Therefore, this passage in Col. 2:11–12 is to be taken literally.
* This “operation” (vs. 12) is performed by the knife of God (Heb. 4:12) and is something no O.T. saint ever received.

**Colossians 2:12-13 Buried with him in baptism** (*not water*), wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the **operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead. **Vs.13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Buried with him in baptism is clearly a reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13) every believer receives upon salvation. Most religions (*even Baptists*) teach that this as water baptism. That is heresy!

**Five things** happen to the child of God when he is saved - **1.** His soul is cut loose from his flesh. **2.** His soul is saved because it has been loosed from its cage. **3.** His spirit is born again and joined to God’s Holy Spirit. **4.** He is justified and adopted by a judicial act of God. **5.** He is baptized into Christ’s spiritual Body by the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus Christ had to die**, **be buried**, **and rise again** before He could don His surgical gown and enter the operating room where He has been “practicing” ever since.

**Without death**, sins could not be “redeemed” (Heb. 9:15); **without resurrection**, the Holy Spirit could not enter the human body (John 7:39); **without circumcision** from the body, the Holy Spirit would not stay in it (Psa. 51:11-12).

**Colossians 2:14-15** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; **Vs.15** *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Four great transactions accompanied the finished work of Christ on Calvary.

**1.** He blotted out “the handwriting of ordinances” (vs. 14). Notice the comments of the Holy Spirit on this matter in Acts 15:10–11 and Ephesians 2:15.  
**2.** He took “the handwriting...out of the way” (vs. 14). It has no hold on the Christian (Rom. 6:4–20, Gal. 4:1–6).  
**3.** He nailed “it to his cross,” (vs. 14) so it dies there with Him (Rom. 7:1–4) and is a cancelled debt (Gal. 3:13).  
**4.** He made a fool out of the Devil, and his angels, demons, and unclean spirits; and He did it publicly as on a stage before a packed house “triumphing over them in it” (vs. 15). The crucifixion was an “arena of faith,” and it witnessed the greatest combat ever fought on this earth (Isa. 52–53). The outcome of this combat determined universal authority (Isa. 14:13, 9:6) in the future (Ezek. 28:4–18), and the winner was given a name above “*every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come*” (Eph. 1:21)

**Colossians 2:16-23**

This passage is a warning to all Christians regarding what kind of advice and leadership to avoid in his struggle to get the mastery over the flesh. It exposes the legalistic practices of false religion. This passage contains some key phrases that reveal this humanistic approach to personal righteousness: **voluntary humility** (vs.18)**, fleshly mind** (vs.18)**, will worship** (vs.23). **This fleshly effort will rob you of your reward** (vs.18). The remedy for the fleshly mind that is puffed up is a renewed mind (Rom. 12:1–3) that places its affections “on things above” (Col. 3:1–3). We ought to serve out of a heart for God and not for the praise or satisfaction of man (Col. 3:23). It is the Lord that we are responsible to and it is He who gives the reward (Col. 3:24).