

OUTLINE

Sins Forgiven in Christ: Colossians 2:13-15

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¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Introduction and Background

- if you have a criminal record in Canada these things might happen to you!

- this is from Pardons.org

- 1) Turned Away At The Border
- 2) Unable To Get Employment or a Promotion
- 3) Denied Volunteering and Coaching Opportunities
- 4) Unable To Obtain Citizenship
- 5) Unable To Visit The U.S.
- 6) Denied Custody of Your Children

- many people have made serious mistakes and some of these people have served their time and are no longer involved in _____ activity

- they have the ability to have a fresh start while removing the shame and stigma associated with a criminal record by getting a _____

- we all know people who have had trouble with the _____ but we sometimes elevate ourselves above other people because their infractions were more _____ than ours

- many people have violated the criminal code of Canada and they can have their criminal record destroyed

- how much more have we _____ God and His law and have a criminal record in the eyes of the _____

- James says in James 2:10

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole _____ but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

- because of our sin, we have a _____ of sin against the Lord and this record of _____ can only be taken away by Jesus and His work upon the Cross

- we all know John 3:16 but do we know John _____ which is just as important!

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be _____ through him.

- God sent Jesus so that people who have this huge IOU of _____ because of their sin could be saved through Jesus Christ

- Colossians 2:6-7 started this new section with the _____ of Christianity which are receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and _____ for Jesus Christ
- in Colossians 2:8 – Paul gives a very serious _____ to these Christians that they are to “see to it” or “_____ out” that no one takes them captive by a deceptive philosophy that has nothing to do with Jesus Christ
- in Colossians 2:9-10, Paul, after warning people of this _____ philosophy, goes onto explain the greatness of the Lord Jesus with two important _____ about Jesus
 - 1) Jesus is _____ God because the fullness of God dwells bodily in Jesus
 - 2) Jesus is the _____ over all rule and authority thus revealing that Jesus is the sovereign Lord over _____ creation
- in Colossians 2:11-12 Paul explains the _____ of Jesus Christ
 - 1) Jesus performs the circumcision of the _____ in the life of the believer
 - 2) Jesus gives life through spiritual _____ in the life of the believer
- in Colossians 2:13-15 we see more of the _____ of Christ accomplished on the Cross!

Outline:

1) (2:13a) Dead in Sin (Trespases)

2) (2:13b) Alive in Christ

3) (2:14-15) Work of Christ

1) (2:13a) Dead in Sin (Trespases)

- Paul in Colossians 2:13 speaks about how life _____ of Jesus Christ is a hazardous condition
- a) the walking dead

(2:13a) And you, who were dead in your trespases

- notice that Paul addresses the Christians in Colossae in the _____ tense, saying “that they WERE dead in their trespases”
- being _____ or dying because of sins, or trespases, is a very clear teaching in the whole of the _____

- let us go back to where _____ started in the book of Genesis
- God gave _____ and _____ the world, they had it all!
- they had _____ fellowship with God in the garden, all their needs were met by the Lord, and they needed nothing else
- they were naked and they felt _____ shame (Genesis 2:25)

- but God gave to Adam and Eve a _____ in Genesis 2:17
Genesis 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- Eve knows this command very well as she recites it back to _____ when Satan tempts her
Genesis 3:3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

- but what do Adam and Eve both _____ ?
- they boldly and foolishly give into sin and _____ against God

- you might think that this would have been no big deal; they only ate fruit
- but they _____ God and consequence of rebellion against God is _____ !

- we see how dangerousV against God is as we follow the historical narrative in _____ 3-6!
- we know that after they eat from this tree they _____ that they are naked (Genesis 3:7)
- but when they hear God walking in the garden they _____ they now have a different relationship with God

Genesis 3:10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

- we see that the man and the woman _____ longer have _____ fellowship with God
- the judgment pronounced on Adam is that he will experience physical _____ (Genesis 3:19)

- at the end of Genesis 3 we know that Adam and Eve's relationship is _____ permanently with God and each other

- they now must dwell _____ of the garden, East of Eden, and are not allowed back in the garden

Genesis 3:23-24 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- what we see following this tragic event is more _____ and more _____ !

- in Genesis 4:1-16 we have death because Cain _____ Abel

- what happens to Cain?

- he ends up with the same punishment as his parents he dwells East of _____ (Genesis 4:16)

- the story of sin and _____ does not end there because in Genesis 6 we see the complete rebellion against God by all humanity and the Lord _____ their sin with a flood!

Genesis 6:5, 7 The LORD saw that the _____ of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his _____ was only evil continually. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

- we see that humanity had _____ fellowship with God but because of their rebellion against God, humanity is _____ in sin and faces God's judgment!

- there has been a huge fascination with zombies over the last few years

- I do not know why there is such a fascination

- but I wish that people _____ of Jesus Christ would recognize that they themselves are the "walking _____"

- people outside of Jesus appear to be alive but they are dead in their _____

- a zombie functions like a _____ person, by walking, eating, reacting to circumstances and communicating

- they are _____ but they function like a person who is alive

- that is similar to our pre-salvation condition, we are alive, our heart is beating, we eat, we walk and do all sorts of things but inwardly we are _____ to God because of our sin

b) the uncircumcision

and the uncircumcision of your flesh,

- secondly, Paul describes their previous condition, without Christ, as _____circumcision

- of course this goes back to Colossians 2:11

- the _____ of Christ is spiritual circumcision which is a _____ heart and life

Colossians 2:11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

- but _____ from the Lord Jesus you remain in uncircumcision

- this means that you do not _____ the Holy Spirit and you do not have a _____ heart and _____ through Jesus Christ

- so our _____, apart from Christ, is that we are _____ in sin,

- we do not have Holy _____ and we do not have changed _____

- we are not reconciled to God and we do not have _____ life

- our condition apart from Christ is truly the “walking _____”!

2) (2:13b) Alive in Christ

a) the new life

(2:13b) God made alive together with him,

- here is the great _____ between the person who is outside of Jesus Christ versus the person who is in Christ Jesus

- because of the grace of God you are made _____ together with Christ

- this goes back to Colossians 2:12 where Paul explains that we have died to sin and have been _____ to _____ life

Colossians 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also _____ with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Paul talks about this _____ life that Christ gives later on in Colossians 3!

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in _____.

- the new _____ that Paul is explaining has two components

a) you have abundant life here on _____

- this means that you have _____ with God, have died to sin and now you are _____ for Jesus Christ

- you no longer have to turn back to the muck of sin, you have _____ and satisfaction as you are _____ to serve Jesus Christ

2) you have the _____ of eternal life in the presence of Christ

- Paul talks about this eternal life many times in this book

- Colossians 1:5 – there is _____ stored up for the Christian in heaven

- the Christian will have _____ eternal in God’s presence either at the 2nd coming of Jesus or their physical death

- this new life in Jesus Christ is connected to Jesus doing something for us – _____ all of our sin!

b) the favor of Christ

having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- I love this verse because it reminds us of how _____ the work of Christ is on our behalf
 - we know that sin has brought _____ and we see the consequences of sin from Genesis to Revelation
 - but Jesus can give us _____ life because he _____ all our sin

 - this “forgive” word is actually the word commonly used for _____
 - grace is _____ shown to people by God and through Jesus even though they do not _____ it (favor)
 - Paul is reminding us that God is _____ to us in spite of our wickedness
 - all the _____ we have committed against God can be pardoned because He is gracious

 - think about all the times that you _____ over the horrible things that people have done to you
 - think about all the times you lost sleep because someone sinned _____ you
 - we as humans really like to hold people accountable for their sins against _____
 - sometimes we do not even want to _____ people when then they sin against us

 - _____ God is not like us, He forgives _____ our sins through Christ
 - God no longer _____ our sins because of the work of Christ – this is a wonderful truth!

 - hear this wonderful verse from the book of Jeremiah about the wonderful _____ of God!
 - God forgives _____ our sin and forgets _____ our wrongdoings against Him
- Jeremiah 33:8** I will cleanse them from all the _____ of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their _____ and rebellion against me.
- our sins are many but because of the work of Christ His mercy is _____ (Romans 5:20)!

3) (2:14-15) Work of Christ

- these next two verses help us understand how the Lord is _____ to forgive us from all sin!
- a) _____ the record of debt

(2:14) by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.

- here we see more of the powerful _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ
- because of our sin we have an outstanding guilty _____ against us
- some think that Paul is referring to the Jewish idea that the angels in heaven _____ down all of our sins
- now for each one of us that would be a lot of writing
- Paul writes that this “_____” of our sin stands against us
- this “record”, or _____ charge, is against us because we have sinned and _____ the punishment of eternal separation from God
- this “record” is against us because we have _____ and deserve the anger of God for our sin

- we know that _____ deserves punishment, we see this all throughout the _____
- we all have sinned and therefore we _____ God’s just punishment

- but Jesus Christ has _____ our sin and punishment
- this word “cancel” has this idea of a “wiping _____”
- in Biblical times this word was used to _____ something that was written on paper
- so imagine you have all your sins _____ on a white board or a chalk board and because of Christ’s _____ they are erased
- or imagine all your sins are recorded on your computer and the file just vanishes and _____ be recovered
- this _____ is the work of Christ

b) nailing it to the cross

This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

- _____ did Jesus do this erasing of our sin record?
- Jesus _____ it to the Cross!
- this means that Jesus goes to the _____ in our place and _____ the punishment for the record of our sin as our substitute
- this verse teaches the doctrine of “penal substitution”

- this picture of Christ’s penal _____stitution is described in 2 Corinthians 5 by Paul

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might _____ the righteousness of God.

- Jesus _____ sin on the cross so that He could _____ all those who trust in Him as righteous
- because of Christ’s penal _____stitution we can experience the glorious ex_____

- [J. V. Fesko](#) describes this glorious exchange as.....*Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments, of never having kept any of them and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me.*

- this record of the debt of our sin is _____!

c) deals with satanic forces

(2:15) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- the _____ of Christ goes even further because it deals with satanic forces which are called “rulers and authorities” in Colossians 2:15
- we know that the Lord Jesus has the _____ to disarm these rulers because He is the sovereign Lord over all!

Colossians 2:10 and you have been _____ in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

- we also need to understand that those _____ of Christ, those who are not Christians, are _____ the influence of these rulers and authorities!

- Paul explains our _____-salvation life as being influenced by _____ forces in Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the _____, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

- the Lord Jesus does _____ things to these rulers and authorities

i) They are disarmed

- this is the idea that they have been stripped of their _____

- they have been _____ by Christ and have no authority or power in the life of the Christian

ii) They are put to open shame

- this means that Jesus makes an _____ of these satanic rulers and authorities

- Jesus _____ disgraces these demonic forces

iii) Jesus is triumphant over them

- Jesus is victorious over these _____ and authorities

- Jesus has _____ the world his power and rule over these evil forces!

- how does _____ do all of this?

- Jesus does this by the _____

- the Cross of Christ _____ with the punishment of sin that we deserve to bear

- but Jesus Christ on the cross disarms and is _____ over satanic forces

Application

1) All Humans _____ Christ

- since Adam and Eve and their rebellion, humanity has been in a fine _____

- we as humans have _____ sinned and apart from Christ we belong to the "walking _____" crew (we are as good as dead but _____ like we are alive)

- our sin has put us _____ of fellowship with God

- our sin has put us at _____ with God

- the person outside of Christ is _____ in a good place, even though things on the outside might look great!

- every human being has violated God's _____ commands

- we have murdered in our _____, been prideful, not honored the Lord like we ought to have and done many _____ actions therefore we deserve God's punishment

- we see the consequences of sin and the consequences that Jesus bore for the sake of His people

- our _____ is why we need the love of God and the work of Jesus upon the Cross!

- to _____ that we rebel against God is to deny the very reason why Jesus came

- I get it, nobody likes to be told they are _____, we prefer to defend our errors and then we double down on them

- but I encourage each one of us to _____ see ourselves as the Word of God describes us

- yes we are made in God's image but we have also _____ against a holy God!

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God,

- we need to _____ that we have sinned against God and that sin leads to _____

- this is _____ we need Christ!

2) Christ Alone Forgives

- there was a _____ that was on the radio called "I Wanna Be Consequence Free"
- the song was about all the guilt that an individual experienced because of all the _____ things that he had done
- but I know this person cannot experience freedom from _____ apart from Christ
- that is why Jesus Christ has come and we cannot _____ ourselves enough about this truth!

- let us _____ the work of Christ as recorded in Romans 5

Romans 5:12-21 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and _____ through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned-- ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the _____ gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, _____ abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- do you see the _____ between Adam who represents us and our sin with that of Jesus Christ
 - 5:15 many died because of _____ – but through Christ many have grace
 - 5:16 sin has brought judgment – but through Christ we have _____
 - 5:17 _____ reigns because of sin – but through Christ there is the gift of righteousness and new _____
 - 5:18 sin led to condemnation – but Christ's act of _____ led to justification
 - 5:19 _____ were made sinners – but through Christ many are made righteous

- the _____ of sin that we have accumulated can never be repaid by us but praise be to Jesus Christ for His work

- Christ _____ the debt in full

- let us cherish Christ, let us worship Christ and let us _____ for Christ because of His wonderful work!

Next Week:
Colossians 2:16-19

**Random Acts of
Kindness Week
Feb 13-19**