

INTRODUCTION.

WE ARE CURRENTLY MOVING THROUGH COL. 2:6-23.

▶▶ As we've noted, ~ in this paragraph, ~ Paul lays down a series ~ of five exhortations, ~ calling believers ~ to stay faithful ~ and not buckle under the pressure ~ of false teaching.

▶▶ And again, ~ Paul expands on each one ~ with additional teaching.

AND WITHIN THIS LARGER CONTEXT, ~ WE HAVE BEEN ZEROING IN ON THE SECOND exhortation and its expansion, ~ verses 8-15.

▶▶ This section is quite lengthy. ⇨⇨ Spending a large amount of time, ~ & rightly so.

▶▶ And to keep the big picture in mind, ~ let's review the overall outline.

▷▷ 8a, ~ The exhortation.

↳↳ Maintain a constant watch, ~ so that ~ no one takes you captive.

▷▷ 8b-15, ~ Paul expands on the exhortation.

↳↳ 8b, ~ The means by which false teachers attempt to capture believers.

→→ And i.e., ~ through hollow and deceptive doctrines ~ that promise much ~ but deliver nothing.

↳↳ 8c, ~ The two sources of false teaching. ⇨⇨ Human mind & demons. ↯↯ 1/15

↪↪ And 9-15, ~ Rebuttal. ⇔⇔ Seven assertions. ⇔⇔ Looked at first 4 of them.

→→1st, ~ vs. 9, ~ reaffirmed deity and humanity of Jesus.

→→2nd, ~ vs. 10a, ~ Jesus' sacrifice of himself on the cross ~ was 100% sufficient ~ to effect our salvation.

→→3rd, ~ vs. 10b, ~ there is no angelic or demonic power or authority ~ that can match Jesus, ~ in any way, ~ shape, ~ or form

↪↪ There is no angelic or demonic power or authority ~ that is independent of Jesus.

→→ And 4th, ~ vs. 11, ~ at conversion, ~ underwent spiritual circumcision.

↪↪ I.e., ~ at conversion, ~ our old nature ~ 77

↪↪ As the dominating force in our life ~ was stripped away ~ and the new self was created.

↪↪ And Paul made it very clear ~ that ~ it was Jesus who brought this spiritual circumcision about.

▶▶ And that brings us up to speed.

▷▷ Please continue reading

TODAY, ~ WE'LL LOOK AT THE FIFTH ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

▶▶ In order to get a fuller picture of this. 11 2/15

OK, ~ THE 5th ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

VERSE 12.

▶▶ having been buried with him in baptism, ~ in which you were also raised with him ~ through faith in the powerful working of God, ~ who raised him from the dead.

▶▶ Again, ~ we'll be dipping into some heavy theological content.

▶▶ It is extremely important ~ that you understand the doctrines of the faith, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in order to not be taken in ~ by hollow and deceptive doctrines.

SINCE THE FALSE TEACHERS' FOCUS WAS ON THE PHYSICAL, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ it's very likely ~ that Paul did not have water baptism in mind here.

▶▶ Lest someone misunderstand.

▷▷ And think he's teaching baptismal regeneration.

▷▷ I.e., ~ the theory ~ that regeneration ~ is effected by the means of baptism, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ or ~ that it cannot be effected without baptism.

▶▶ Paul would never do that.

▷▷ He goes out of his way to denounce the belief that religious rituals save us or help save us. ¶¶ 3/15

▶▶ Paul ~ would never ~ say the change from spiritual death to spiritual life is done by water

▶▶ So he's not teaching baptismal regeneration.

▷▷ There's no water to be found ~ in this verse.

▶▶ Also, ~ Paul had just spoken of spiritual circumcision, ~ the power of our sin nature being broken.

▷▷ So he is most likely thinking spiritually ~ and not physically ~ here as well.

OK, ~ YOU MAY BE ASKING, ~ THEN ~ WHAT'S PAUL TALKING ABOUT HERE?

▶▶ What is this baptism?

▶▶ The baptism of the Holy Spirit.

▷▷ This may be defined as that work ~ whereby the Spirit of God ~ places the believer into union with Christ.

▷▷ 1 Cor. 12:13 (CSB) ~ is the central passage in the Bible ~ regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

↪↪ For we were all baptized by one Spirit ~ into one body ~~ whether Jews or Greeks, ~~ whether slaves or free ~~ and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

→→ I.e., ~ we all share the same Spirit.

▶▶ And in 2:12, ~ Paul explains what happens on a spiritual level ~ in this baptism. 📖 4/15

BELIEVERS WERE BAPTIZED, ~ OR PLACED, ~ INTO CHRIST ~ AT CONVERSION ~ BY THE Holy Spirit.

▶▶Of course, ~ water baptism is a beautiful picture of this spiritual baptism.

▷▷But again, ~ water is not in view here.

▶▶When a person is born again ~ it's as if ~ ¶¶

▷▷they died, ~ were buried, ~ and then rose again to new life, ~ through faith in the powerful working of God, ~ who raised Jesus from the dead.

JUST AS GOD RAISED JESUS, ~ SO HE RAISED US FROM THE DEAD ~ [i.e., ~ from spiritual death] ~ when we believed in Jesus.

▶▶Our old life died and was buried.

▶▶And by his immeasurably great power, ~ God raised us to new life.

▶▶Again, ~ as Paul says, ~ if anyone is in Christ, ~ he is a new creation. ~~ The old has passed away; ~~ behold, ~ the new has come.

HERE IS THE PICTURE, ~ IF WE CAN PUT IT THIS WAY.

▶▶Here is the picture of a great reality ~ that Paul is painting for us.

▷▷When we put our faith in Christ, ~~ it's as if God propels us back in time ~ and puts us on the cross ~ and we die ~ and we are buried.

▷▷And then, ~ on the third day, ~ he raises us up with Jesus. ¶¶ 5/15

▷▷ And we come forth ~ a totally new life. ⇨⇨ Nanosecond.

▶▶ Fellow believers, ~ we are no longer spiritually dead.

▷▷ We have been raised to spiritual life.

▶▶ This is talking about our spiritual resurrection, ~ which happens instantaneously at conversion.

▶▶ Our bodily resurrection ~ will happen at the second coming of Jesus.

THE BELIEVER IS SO IDENTIFIED BY FAITH WITH JESUS ~~ that we are in his death.

▶▶ We are in his burial.

▶▶ We are in his resurrection.

▶▶ Wonderful, ~ marvelous truth.

▶▶ And it is all done ~ by the immeasurably great power of God.

NOTICE THAT: ~~ THE IMMEASURABLY GREAT POWER OF GOD,

▶▶ God, ~ who raised Jesus from the dead, ~ raises us from the dead, ~ 77

▷▷ so that ~ when we received Christ, ~~ our old life died ~~ we were buried, ~~ and we have become alive.

▶▶ Before Christ, ~ we were spiritually dead. ⇨⇨ After, ~ spiritually alive. 77 6/15

▶▶ Paul explains it in Eph. 2:1-6. ⇔⇔ Lengthy, ~ but important to see it laid out in Scripture.

▷▷ And you were dead ~ in the trespasses and sins ~ in which you once walked, ~ following the course of this world, ~ following the prince of the power of the air, ~ the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience ~ among whom ~ we all once lived ~ in the passions of our flesh, ~ carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, ~ and were by nature ~ children of wrath, ~ like the rest of mankind. ~ But God, ~ being rich in mercy, ~ because of the great love with which he loved us, ~ even when we were dead in our trespasses, ~ made us alive ~ together with Christ ~ by grace you have been saved ~ and raised us up with him ~ and seated us with him ~ in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

LET'S NOTICE ONE LITTLE FOOTNOTE HERE ~ IN THE MIDDLE OF COL. 2:12.

▶▶ through faith in the powerful working of God.

▶▶ We who have faith in God's power, ~ we who believe ~ that God raised Jesus from the dead ~ will also be raised with him.

▶▶ Is that right?

▷▷ Rom. 10:9-10.

↪↪ If you confess with your mouth, ~ "Jesus is Lord," ~ and believe in your heart ~ that God raised him from the dead, ~ you will be ~ [what?] ~ saved. ~ One believes with the heart, ~ resulting in righteousness, ~ and one confesses with the mouth, ~ resulting in salvation.

▶▶ When ~ we believe that ~ and confess with our mouth ~ our old life ~ dies, ~ is buried ~ and we rise ~ in newness of life, ~ a spiritual miracle.

▶▶ And you know what you experience ~ and I experience ~ at the moment of conversion?

▷▷ The same power ~ with which ~ God raised Jesus from the dead. ↯↯ 7/15

OK, ~ LET'S NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FOREST FOR THE TREES.

WE ARE DISCUSSING, ~ VERSE 12, ~ PAUL'S FIFTH ASSERTION ~ in his rebuttal of false teaching.

▶▶ Again, ~ the baptism of the Holy Spirit is in view here.

▷▷ That work ~ whereby the Spirit of God ~ places the believer into union with Christ.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ at the moment of conversion to Christ, ~ it's as if ~ we died, ~ were buried, ~ and were raised to new life.

▷▷ Just as God raised Jesus, ~ so he raised us from the dead ~ when we believed in Jesus.

▷▷ All by the immeasurably great power of God when we believed.

AND THE FOLLOWING ~ SEEMS TO BE PAUL'S POINT. ⇔⇔ OVERALL CONTEXT

▶▶ Paul seems to be emphasizing ~ that this work of the Holy Spirit ~ in the life of a believer at the moment of conversion ~ is a finished act.

▷▷ Could have simply said, ~ You were baptized by the Spirit into Christ.

▷▷ But he doesn't.

↳↳ He goes through the spiritual process that takes place at conversion.

▷▷ having been buried ~ [implies death] ~ [both past tense] ~ with him in baptism, in which you were also raised ~ [past tense] ~ with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ↴ 8/15

▶▶ It is done. ⇔⇔ It is complete.

▶▶ The old nature is dealt with, ~~ new life has begun, ~~ complete salvation is ours.

▶▶ There is nothing else we need.

▷▷ We are already new creations.

▷▷ We cannot, ~ by anything, ~ improve on that.

▷▷ So when somebody comes along and says, ~ 77

↳↳ "Well I know you have to believe, ~~ but also you have to keep the Ten Commandments." ⇔⇔ No.

↳↳ "But also you have to do this or this." ⇔⇔ No.

▷▷ Complete salvation.

▷▷ Complete forgiveness. ⇔⇔ Complete renewal.

NOW, ~ IN ORDER TO GET A FULLER PICTURE, ~ WE'RE GOING OVER TO ROM. 6:3-16.

▶▶ Here, ~ like in Col. 2:12, ~ Paul discusses the baptism of the Holy Spirit, ~ and brings in some implications of being new creations.

▶▶ We're just going to skim this. ⇔⇔ So hopefully, ~ I'll do this justice.

▷▷ And you can trace it out more fully on your own. 11 9/15

OK, ~ FIRST, ~ ROM. 6:1-3.

▶▶ What shall we say then? ~ Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ~ ~ 77

▷▷ By no means! ~ [Emph. neg.] ~ How can we who died to sin still live in it? ~ ~ 77

↪↪ Do you not know ~ that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus ~ were baptized into his death?

NOW LOOK AT ROM. 6:4.

▶▶ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, ~ in order that, ~ just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, ~ we too ~ might walk in newness of life.

▶▶ We died with him.

▶▶ We were raised with him.

▶▶ Purpose.

▷▷ In order that ~ we might walk in newness of life.

NOW LET'S CONSIDER ROM. 6:6 (CSB).

▶▶ (CSB) ~ For we know ~ that our old self ~ was crucified with him ~ so that ~ the body ruled by sin ~ might be rendered powerless ~ so that ~ we may no longer be enslaved to sin.

▶▶ Notice, ~ it doesn't say, ~ "rendered ~ slightly ~ powerless." 77 10/15

▶▶No, ~ Paul says, ~ "so that it might be rendered ~ powerless.

▶▶With the result that ~ believers are no longer slaves to sin. ⇨⇨ Been freed from it.

SOME BELIEVER MIGHT ASK, ~ "IN WHAT WAY ~ ARE WE FREED FROM SIN?"

▶▶"Are we freed ~ to never sin again?"

▶▶No, ~ Paul is not saying ~ we are freed to never sin again.

▷▷We still have our sin nature.

▷▷We will never ~ reach sinless perfection in this life.

HOWEVER, ~ THIS DOES NOT GIVE US A LICENSE OR EXCUSE ~ TO SIN ~ OR TO KEEP on sinning.

▶▶The NT ~ makes it abundantly clear ~ that we are to be growing in holiness.

▷▷1 Pet. 1:14-16 (CSB).

↪↪As obedient children, ~ do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance ~ [unsaved]. ~ But as the one who called you is holy, ~ you also are to be holy in all your conduct; ~ for it is written, ~ Be holy, ~ because I am holy.

▷▷1 Pet. 2:11 (LEB).

↪↪Dear friends, ~ I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents ~ to abstain ~ from fleshly desires ~ which wage war against your soul. ↴↴ 11/15

▶▶ Warren Wiersbe wrote: ~ ~ ¶¶

▷▷ A Christian ~ is not sinless, ~ ~ but he does sin ~ less ~ and less ~ and less.

▶▶ No, ~ still having our sin nature ~ does not give us a license or excuse ~ to sin ~ or to keep on sinning.

IN WHAT WAY, ~ THEN, ~ ARE WE FREED FROM SIN?

▶▶ What Paul is talking about ~ is that ~ we have been freed from the consequences of sin.

▷▷ In Rom. 8:1, ~ he says, ~ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

↳↳ "no condemnation" is emphasized in the Greek text.

↳↳ The point Paul is making here, ~ is that ~ ¶¶

→→ condemnation ~ is, ~ in every sense, ~ out of the question ~ "for those who are in Christ Jesus."

▶▶ But there's more.

▷▷ Paul is also talking about being freed ~ from sin's dominance, ~ ~ when he says ~ we are freed from sin.

▷▷ As we've discussed, ~ we still have our sinful nature.

▷▷ But, ~ we don't have to obey it.

⇒⇒ We have a choice. ¶¶ 12/15

AND PAUL TELLS US ~ TO CHOOSE WISELY.

▶▶Rom. 6:11-16.

▶▶I'm just going to skim this and comment very briefly.

▷▷And you can trace it out more fully.

▶▶11 ~ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin ~ and alive to God in ~ [or, ~ through] ~ Christ Jesus.

▷▷Here's the point.

↪↪Since we are dead to sin's power, ~ we ought to recognize that fact ~ and not continue in sin.

→→Instead, ~ we are to realize ~ we have new life in Christ ~ and live accordingly.

▶▶12 ~ Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, ~ to make you obey its passions.

▷▷I.e., ~ Do not let sin control the way you live; ~~ do not give in to sinful desires.

▶▶13a ~ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness.

▷▷Do not let ~ any part of your body ~ become an instrument of evil to serve sin, ~ Paul says.

▶▶13b ~ but present yourselves to God ~ [i.e., ~ give selves completely to God] ~~ as those who have been brought from death to life ~~ [which believers have been]. ↴↴ 13/15

▶▶13c ~ and your members to God ~ as instruments for righteousness.

▷▷Since we have been brought from death to life, ~ ¶¶

↳↳Paul want us ~ to use our whole body ~ as an instrument ~ to do what is right ~ for the glory of God.

▶▶14 ~ For sin will have no dominion over you, ~ since you are not under law but under grace.

▷▷I.e., ~ believers no longer live ~ under the requirements of the law.

▷▷Instead, ~ we live ~ under the freedom of God's grace.

▶▶Then Paul deals with an erroneous conclusion someone might come up with.

▷▷15a ~~ What then? ~~ Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?

▶▶His answer: ↳↳ 15b By no means!

▷▷In the Greek text, ~ this ~ is an emphatic negation.

↳↳This is Paul's most emphatic repudiation ~ of any idea ~ to which this phrase refers.

→→Paul ~ will have nothing to do ~ with the suggestion ~ that believers are free to sin ~ because we're under grace.

▶▶It could be paraphrased this way.

▷▷You should never conclude such a thing! ~~ God forbid ~ that you should think so! ~~
No way! ¶¶ 14/15

▶▶ Verse 16 has Paul's fuller answer.

▷▷ Do you not know ~ that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, ~ you are slaves of the one whom you obey, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?
[i.e., ~ righteous living]?

▷▷ My . . . , ~ don't we realize ~ that we become the slave ~ of whatever we choose to obey?

↳↳ We can be a slave to sin, ~ which leads to death, ~ or ~ we can choose to obey God, ~ which leads to righteous living.

CONCLUSION.

WE STILL HAVE OUR SINFUL NATURE.

▶▶ But, ~ we don't have to obey it.

▷▷ We have a choice.

▶▶ Believers, ~ choose wisely, ~ Paul says.

LET'S PRAY 15/15