

INTRODUCTION.

PRESENTLY, ~ WE ARE LOOKING AT PAUL'S REBUTTAL OF FALSE TEACHING.

▶▶ And this ~ is within the much larger context ~ of his five exhortations, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ calling believers ~ to stay faithful ~ and not buckle under the pressure ~ of false teaching.

↪↪ Remember, ~ Paul expands on each one ~ with additional teaching.

▶▶ His rebuttal ~ is the outflow ~ of the second exhortation.

▷▷ And it makes up the largest portion of this whole section of five exhortations.

▶▶ And, ~ in his rebuttal, ~ as we know, ~ he makes seven assertions.

TODAY, ~ WE'LL TAKE UP THE LAST TWO ASSERTIONS.

▶▶ And then ~ next week, ~ we'll take up the remaining three exhortations and their expanded teaching ~ and be done with [Col. 2:6-23](#).

OK, ~ LET'S LOOK AT THE LAST TWO ASSERTIONS OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

VERSES 13-14, ~ THE SIXTH ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

BELIEVERS ARE SPIRITUALLY ALIVE AND TOTALLY FORGIVEN. ¶¶ 1/15

▶▶ But Paul doesn't begin with that.

▷▷ He once again ~ reviews our condition when we were unsaved.

▶▶ In [verse 13a](#), ~ he says ~ [And you, ~ who were dead ~ in your trespasses ~ and the uncircumcision of your flesh.](#)

▷▷ Keep in mind our previous discussion about spiritual circumcision in [verse 11](#).

▷▷ Once again ~ I believe Paul has that in view ~ and not a physical procedure.

▷▷ Although ~ it can be interpreted that way.

▷▷ But I really don't think Paul would have switched ~ from the spiritual to the physical ~ without some indication of the switch.

▶▶ So Paul is saying ~ that ~ prior to salvation, ~ [??](#)

▷▷ we ["were dead in our trespasses ~ and were not free from the power of our sinful nature."](#)

NOW, ~ NOTICE ~ I SAID ONCE AGAIN PAUL ~ reviews our prior spiritual condition.

▶▶ Recall that he did it in Ephesians, ~ in his discussion of salvation by grace.

▷▷ He also began ~ by taking us on a trip ~ down memory lane.

▷▷ In Ephesians, ~ he gave us ~ a very full treatment of our unsaved condition.

↪↪ He took us on a long trip ~ down memory lane. [?? 2/15](#)

▷▷ And we examined that passage when we looked at Paul's discussion ~ in Colossians ~ of our own personal ~ spiritual experience and situation.

▶▶ Also, ~ recall ~ that Paul took us on a short trip down memory lane, ~ in his discussion of reconciliation, ~ in 1:21-23.

▷▷ He reviewed for us ~ our own personal ~ spiritual experience and situation.

↪↪ And recall that ~ he began that review ~ by taking us on a trip ~ down memory lane.

▷▷ He reminded us of the way we were before we were saved.

↪↪ Before we became believers, ~ he told us that ~ we were alienated from God and hostile in mind toward him.

→→ And our evil deeds ~ revealed that hostility.

▶▶ Since we just recently discussed the details of our unsaved condition, ~ we won't today.

THE QUESTION IS, ~ "WHY WOULD PAUL, ~ IN THREE PLACES NO LESS, ~ TAKE US ON a trip down memory lane?"

▶▶ Certainly ~ not ~ to make us feel guilty ~ or to drag us down ~ or to bring about other negative effects in our lives.

▶▶ Apostle of joy.

▷▷ In Phil. 3 ~ he exhorts believers to ~ rejoice in the Lord.

▷▷ And then in Phil. 4, ~ he encourages us to ~ Rejoice in the Lord always. ~~ I will say it again: ~ Rejoice! ↻↻ 3/15

▶▶Rather, ~ no doubt Paul takes us on these trips down memory lane ~ 77

▷▷because of the positive results ~ that will occur in our lives.

THINK ABOUT IT.

▶▶Remembering the way we were ~ will help prevent us ~ from failing to appreciate Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

▶▶Remembering the way we were ~ will help us begin to truly grasp and appreciate ~ the infinite depth ~ of God's love for us.

▶▶Remembering the way we were ~ will guard us against spiritual pride.

▷▷Because it will remind us of two things.

↳↳1st, ~ none of us ~ were saved because we were great people. ⇒⇒ Quite the contrary.

↳↳And the second thing ~ remembering the way we were will remind us of.

→→None of us ~ could get ourselves out of our spiritually dead predicament.

▶▶And remembering what God saved us from ~ will cause us ~ 77

▷▷to come to a greater appreciation ~ for the great things God has done for us ~ and ~ for how He has had mercy on us.

▶▶So no doubt ~ Paul takes us on these trips down memory lane ~ because of the positive results ~ that will occur in our lives. 77 4/15

NOW LET'S RETURN TO Col. 2:13a.

▶▶ We see ~ that ~ when we were spiritually dead and enslaved to our sinful nature, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God made us alive ~ together with Jesus ~ and forgave all of our sins.

▶▶ But notice the condition we were in ~ when God saved us.

▶▶ There was ~ no preparation on our part ~ before we could be saved.

▷▷ There was no preparation ~ we could do.

▶▶ Any teaching ~ that would even suggest such a thing ~ is false.

▶▶ Paul sets the record straight ~ here in Colossians ~ and elsewhere.

▷▷ In Rom. 5:6-8 CSB, ~ Paul writes this.

↪↪⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die.⁸ But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

▷▷ And even more, ~ according to Paul later in Rom. 5, ~ we were God's enemies ~ at the time Jesus died for us.

▷▷ And remember, ~ we were ~ alienated from God ~ and hostile in mind toward him, ~ when Jesus died for us.

▶▶ There was ~ no preparation on our part ~ before we could be saved. ⇔⇔ There was no preparation ~ we could do. ¶¶ 5/15

AND CONSIDER THIS AMAZING TRUTH.

▶▶ Jesus did not say to the Father, ~ "Die for these people? ~ ~ 77

▷▷ Why, ~ they're ~ sinners, ~ hostile toward me, ~ and my enemies. ~ ~ No way."

▶▶ No, ~ he didn't.

▶▶ 1 Jn. 4:10.

▷▷ In this is love ~ [or, ~ This is real love], ~ ~ not ~ that we have loved God ~ ~ but ~ that he loved us ~ 77

↳↳ and sent his Son ~ to be the propitiation for our sins ~ ~ [i.e., ~ to be ~ the sacrifice ~ to take away our sins].

▶▶ Speaking of his life, ~ Jesus said, ~ No one takes it from me, ~ ~ but I lay it down of my own accord.

▷▷ I.e., ~ he sacrificed it voluntarily.

▶▶ Amazing truth.

OK, ~ BACK TO VERSE 13 ~ AND THE SIXTH ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

AFTER NOTING OUR PRIOR SPIRITUAL CONDITION IN VERSE 13a, ~ 77

▶▶ In verse 13b, ~ Paul says that ~ believers ~ are now spiritually alive ~ and totally forgiven.

▷▷ God made [us] alive together with him, ~ having forgiven us all our trespasses. 77 6/15

▶▶ Although everything happens instantaneously at conversion, ~ forgiveness must precede new birth.

▷▷ There can be no spiritual rebirth ~ without forgiveness of sins.

↳↳ And the Greek grammar points ~ to forgiveness preceding new birth.

▷▷ Sin is a barrier ~ between humanity and God ~ and must be removed ~ before new life can begin.

▶▶ Forgave all our sins. ⇨⇨ And, ~ as we'll see, ~ later in the letter Paul urges believers ~ to imitate ~ this act of God.

▷▷ as the Lord has forgiven you, ~ so you also must forgive.

▶▶ We've already talked at length ~ about ~ believers being raised to spiritual life, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ so I'll just comment on the phrase, ~ having forgiven us all our trespasses.

NOW, ~ AGAIN, ~ KEEP THE OVERALL CONTEXT IN MIND HERE.

▶▶ Paul is refuting false teaching.

▷▷ One of the tenets of that heresy ~ was that Jesus' sacrifice was not enough.

↳↳ And Paul is disproving that in a big way.

▶▶ How many of our sins were forgiven? ⇨⇨ All of them.

▷▷ None ~ are left for us ~ or for someone else ~ to clean up. ¶¶ 7/15

▶▶ Jesus did not say to us, ~ "Ok, ~ I'll take care of 90% of your sins. ~ ~ 77

▷▷ And you take care of the remaining 10%."

▶▶ God the Holy Spirit, ~ speaking through Paul, ~ is clear.

▷▷ The Father has ~ forgiven us ~ all ~ our trespasses.

▶▶ The Greek word for all ~ means ~ 77

▷▷ the totality ~ of any ~ object, ~ mass, ~ collective, ~ or extension ~ 'all, ~ every, ~ each, ~ whole.'

▷▷ I think perhaps ~ we get Paul's point.

▶▶ Good thing too ~ that Jesus took care of all of our sins.

NOTE DAVID'S REACTION TO HIS SINS BEING FORGIVEN.

▶▶ Ps. 32:1 (CSB). ~ How joyful ~ is the one ~ whose transgression ~ is forgiven, ~ whose sin ~ is covered!

▶▶ Should this not be ~ our reaction too, ~ my?

THE GREEK WORD FOR ~ "FORGIVEN" ~ IS PART OF THE WORD-FAMILY ~ THAT ALSO includes ~ the term for "grace."

▶▶ The word for ~ "forgiven" ~ itself means ~ to forgive, ~ on the basis of one's gracious attitude toward an individual. 77 8/15

▶▶ The Greek word for ~ "forgiven" then ~ reminds us ~ 77

▷▷ that this ~ is a gracious forgiveness on God's part, ~ not in any sense ~ because of the merits of the sinner.

▶▶ Paul echoes this thought ~ in Eph. 2:4-5.

▷▷⁴ But God, ~ being rich in mercy, ~ because of the great love with which he loved us, ~
⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, ~ made us alive together with Christ ~ by grace you have been saved.

VERSE 14 TELLS US ~ WHAT THIS FORGIVENESS INVOLVED.

(NIV) HAVING CANCELED THE CHARGE OF OUR LEGAL INDEBTEDNESS, ~ which stood against us ~ and condemned us; ~ he has taken it away, ~ nailing it to the cross.

▶▶ We had broken God's holy law. ⇔⇔ Whether Jew or Gentile, ~ all of us.

▶▶ In Romans Paul says, ~ for all ~ have sinned ~ and fall short of the glory of God.

▶▶ And Paul shows us here in Colossians ~ that there was a record of the charges against us.

▶▶ This record ~ was like a handwritten ledger ~ of our trespasses against God's holy law.

WE COULD LOOK AT IT THIS WAY TOO.

▶▶ Because we broke God's holy law, ~ we owed a debt ~ a debt ~ that listed ~ all the rules we failed to follow.

PAUL SAYS ~ THIS LEDGER STOOD AGAINST US AND CONDEMNED US. 11 9/15

▶▶ It stood as a testimony against us ~ and legally condemned us ~ in every way.

▶▶ And James tells us ~ that even the slightest offense will condemn us to hell.

▷▷ James 1:10. ⇨⇨ For whoever keeps the entire law, ~ and yet stumbles at one point, ~ is guilty of breaking it all.

▷▷ I.e., ~ for the person who keeps all of God's laws ~ except one ~ is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

▶▶ We had a real problem on our hands.

AND THE PROBLEM WAS EVEN WORSE.

▶▶ Humanity ~ could not pay the debt for these offenses.

▶▶ It takes a sinless human being to pay the debt.

▶▶ We fail ~ from the moment our mother conceives us.

▷▷ As David puts it, ~ Indeed, ~~ I was guilty when I was born; ~~ I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

(VERSE 14) ~~ GOD, ~ HOWEVER, ~ HAS DONE SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

▶▶ 1st, ~ he canceled the ledger.

▶▶ And 2nd, ~ he has taken it away.

▶▶ And it was all done ~ through the sacrifice of his beloved Son on the cross. ⇩⇩ 10/15

1st, ~ HE HAS CANCELED THE CHARGES THAT WERE AGAINST US.

▶▶ Christ's death ~ was sufficient ~ to cancel the charges against the sinner completely.

▶▶ Jesus paid our debt for us. ⇨⇨ An old hymn.

▷▷ I had a debt I could not pay, ~~ He paid the debt He did not owe, ~~ I needed someone, ~ to wash my sins away. ~ 77

↳↳ And now ~ I sing a brand new song, ~ "Amazing grace" all day long, ~~ Christ Jesus paid the debt, ~~ that I could never pay.

▶▶ The Greek word for ~ "canceled" ~ means ~ to cause something to cease ~ by obliterating any evidence.

▷▷ Wow, ~ that's quite a statement Paul is making.

▶▶ When a person repents ~ and turns to Jesus for salvation, ~ God the Father ~ obliterates the charges against them.

▷▷ Through Isaiah, ~ God says in Is. 43:25, ~ I, ~ I am he ~ who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, ~~ and I will not remember your sins.

(VERSE 14) ~~ 2nd, ~ GOD HAS TAKEN THE LEDGER AWAY.

▶▶ I.e., ~ this ledger that stood as a testimony against us ~ and legally condemned us ~ in every way.

▶▶ This ledger formed a barrier between God and humanity.

⇨⇨ Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, ~ God has removed it from its position as a barrier between Himself and sinners. ⇩⇩ 11/15

▶▶ The tense of the Greek verb for ~ "he has taken" ~ implies ~ not only the historic act of Christ's sacrifice ~ but its permanent effects.

▶▶ IOW, ~ It is still so! ⇨⇨ Been permanently removed.

STRETCH YOUR MEMORIES HERE.

▶▶ I believe ~ what Paul is saying here, ~ is the same as the objective aspect of reconciliation, ~ which we discussed back in 1:20.

▶▶ The ongoing result of Jesus' sacrifice ~ is that ~ there remains ~ no obstacle ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in the way of a person having peace and a relationship with God.

▶▶ All may come to the Father through Jesus, ~ be reconciled to him ~ and be at peace with him now and for eternity.

▶▶ All people need to do, ~ and this is the subjective side of reconciliation, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ all people need to do is accept the reconciliation ~ that Jesus has achieved.

▶▶ This barrier that God removed, ~ shall never be placed between him and humanity again.

▶▶ The only thing now ~ that can hinder a person's salvation ~ is the person himself.

▶▶ God has made it possible ~ for all to come.

▷▷ Jn. 3:16-17, ~ For God so loved the world, ~ that he gave his only Son, ~ that whoever believes in him ~ should not perish ~ but have eternal life. ~ For God did not send his Son into the world ~ to condemn the world, ~ but ~ in order that the world ~ might be saved through him. ¶¶ 12/15

▷▷ And it is God's desire ~ that all be saved. ⇨⇨ Ezek. 33:11.

↳↳ Say to them, ~ As I live, ~ declares the Lord God, ~ I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, ~ but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

(VS. 14) ~ THE PHRASE ~ NAILING IT TO THE CROSS ~ INDICATES ~ THE MEANS ~ ¶¶

▶▶ by which Jesus ~ obliterated believers' sins ~ and removed the barrier between God and man.

▶▶ Jesus nailed the ledger to the cross ~ and it perished with him.

▷▷ Jesus rose from the dead, ~ but the ledger stayed dead.

▶▶ Onlookers at the cross ~ saw the superscription bearing Jesus' name ~ and the alleged charge against Him.

▶▶ Believers are invited ~ to see their sins nailed there, ~ a debt nevermore to be assessed against them, ~ according to Paul here.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ a person can look and see that the sin barrier is removed ~ and through Jesus, ~ access to God is available.

AND NOW THE SEVENTH AND FINAL ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

VERSE 15 (NIV).

▶▶ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, ~ he made a public spectacle of them, ~ triumphing over them ~ by the cross.

▶▶ I.e., ~ Jesus disarmed the spiritual forces of evil. ¶¶ 13/15

▶▶ Jesus not only paid the penalty to atone for sin, ~ 77

▷▷ but he also won a decisive victory ~ over Satan and all the host of supernatural beings who are in league with him.

▶▶ The author of Hebrews tells us ~ that Jesus took on flesh ~ 77

▷▷ so that ~ through his death ~ he might destroy ~ the one holding the power of death ~ that is, ~ the devil.

▶▶ And in his first epistle, ~ John tells us ~ The reason the Son of God appeared ~ was to destroy ~ the works of the devil.

JESUS DISARMED THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF DARKNESS.

▶▶ He shamed them publicly ~ by his victory over them on the cross.

THE PICTURE COMES FROM A COMMON ROMAN MILITARY PRACTICE.

▶▶ When a general won a victory, ~ a triumphal procession made its way through the streets, ~ with the successful general leading the way.

▶▶ His army followed, ~ singing songs of conquest ~ and reveling in their victory.

▶▶ Bringing up the rear ~ would be the defeated king and his warriors, ~ subjected to public ridicule ~ and paraded for all to see.

ON THE CROSS, ~ JESUS WON A DECISIVE VICTORY, ~ 77

▶▶ making clear to the universe ~ that Satan is a vanquished foe. 11 14/15

▶▶ This does not mean that we will not have conflict.

▶▶ Peter tells that ~ the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, ~ seeking someone to devour.

▶▶ The devil has been defeated, ~~ but he has not yet conceded defeat.

▷▷ He has been overthrown, ~~ but he has not yet been fully eliminated.

▶▶ Satan continues to harass us.

▷▷ But we don't have to buckle under his attacks.

▶▶ He has no power over believers, ~ unless we give it to him.

▷▷ Paul exhorts us in Ephesians ~ to not give the devil a foothold.

↪↪ We do so ~ when we sin.

▶▶ And James tells us, ~ in James 4:7, ~ Submit yourselves therefore to God. ~~ Resist the devil, ~~ and he will flee from you.

▶▶ Eventually, ~ Satan and all his demons ~ will be thrown into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION.

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE END OF PAUL'S SECOND EXHORTATION AND REBUTTAL.

▶▶ Next time, ~ we'll take up the last three exhortations.

LET'S PRAY 15/15