

- I) V11-15 INTRO: In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands
 - a) AS I HAVE SHARED: Early in the history of the church, the all-sufficiency of Jesus was challenged
 - 1) False teachers entered in to the church, saying faith in Jesus and God's word was not enough

- II) REMEMBER: This is something that Jesus told His men would happen
 - a) He made it clear that false teachers would enter in, to confuse sheep
 - 1) Mt 7:15 Beware of false prophets *who come to you* in sheep's clothing (dressed as prophets), but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

- III) EARLY ON: False teachers did enter in to the church to undermine the message of grace
 - a) FACT: By the year 49 AD Paul was already defending the gospel from false teachers
 - 1) Gal 1:8-9 Even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other gospel* to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if *anyone preaches* any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed

- IV) PAUL WROTE: Beware lest anyone *cheat you* through philosophy and empty deceit (V8)
 - a) Cheat is the Greek word for robbing, or taking something by violence
 - 1) POINT: Do not allow yourselves to be ripped off by man's philosophy

- V) NOTICE: He speaks of the *basic principles* of the world (death system)
 - a) This speaks of things placed in a row: the Philosophic ABC's of heathens

- VI) KEY: Honest questions are not being condemned, because such questions should be answered
 - a) Christians should not be afraid of questions, but learn to answer them without getting angry
 - 1) 1 Pe 3:15 Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear

- VII) FACT: Paul's concern is with philosophies that attack and seduce believers from simple faith
 - a) This was a system that undermined their faith in Jesus
 - 1) Mt 18:6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

- VIII) V9-10 PAUL'S ANSWER: We worship Christ, Who made all things, and is to be worshiped
 - a) THIS IS BECAUSE: He is God in the flesh, Who has revealed Himself to man (1:19)
 - 1) He is *better* than any worldly philosophy, and we are *complete in Him*
 - 2) We need no one else, and nothing more than what we already have in Jesus
 - 3) POINT: God's purpose in creating us is fulfilled when we are in Him

- IX) V11-12 IN HIM: You were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands by putting off
 - a) AT THIS POINT: Paul asks them to remember their baptism (our baptism-7/25)
 - 1) Why is this important? It reminds them of their position *in Christ*

- X) NOTICE HOW HE BEGINS: By speaking first of circumcision
 - a) This would be because the false teachers were teaching that the Gentiles were to be circumcised
 - 1) This was like what happened in Galatia, when false teachers added to the gospel of grace

Gal 5:6 In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything but faith working through love

- I) JEWS: Were circumcised the 8th day after birth as a sign of belonging to Israel (Lev 12:2-3, Gen 17:10-14)
- a) TO THE JEW: Circumcision demonstrated embracing the covenant relationship with God
 - 1) Gen. 17:11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant between me and you
- II) KEY: It was a symbol of a need for man's nature to be regenerated as procreation produces sinful men
- a) Dt 10:16 Circumcise *your hearts*, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.
 - b) Dt 30:6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.
- III) KEY: This relationship always was built on faith in God, and not simply a ritual
- a) Abraham received the sign of circumcision, but did so after he had already shown faith in God
 - 1) Ro 4:9-11 Faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also.
- IV) HIS POINT IS THAT GENTILES: Do not need to receive the rite of circumcision
- a) Ro 2:29 He is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart
- V) V11 IN HIM: You were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands by putting off
- a) Christians do not need circumcision because we have entered into relationship with God by faith
 - 1) THOUGHT: God is the One performing the ritual, not a priest at conversion
- VI) V11 NOTICE: By the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh
- a) KEY: In circumcision, *outwardly* the foreskin is stripped away and discarded
 - 1) This enabled the child to be brought into the covenantal relationship Israel had with God
- VII) V12 IN BAPTISM: Jesus is the One who *inwardly* performs a cleansing on the one baptized
- a) The putting off of the flesh is what is pictured in water baptism: Death, burial, resurrection
 - 1) Ro. 6:4 We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - 2) Ro 6:6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--
 - 3) BY FAITH: We recognize that we now have newness of life, in Jesus
- VIII) 13-15 AND YOU, BEING DEAD: In your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh He has made alive
- a) You were spiritually and morally dead, when you were still pagans
 - 1) Eph 2:1-3 You were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
- IX) V13 YET BECAUSE OF JESUS: We are now made alive in Him and have been *forgiven* of our sins
- a) *All* of our sins are forgiven, not just some but all

- 1) We are forgiven by the work of Jesus, on the cross
- I) ON THE CROSS: God by His mercy and compassion has made a way for us to be completely forgiven
 - a) Ps 103:11-12 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *So* great is His mercy toward those who *fear Him*; As far as the east is from the west, *so* far has He removed our transgressions from us.
 - b) Micah 7:18 Who *is* a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights *in* mercy.
 - c) 1 Jn 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...
- II) V14 HAVING *WIPE*D OUT THE HANDWRITING: Of requirements that *was against us* which was
 - a) He has completely canceled all of our debts to God
 - 1) We were in bankruptcy before God, with a mountain of debt: He wiped the slate clean
Jn 19:30 It is finished (Paid in full)
- III) V15 HAVING *DISARMED*: Principalities and powers He made a public spectacle of them
 - a) Jesus disarmed (pillaged, ransacked) Satan and his army: Jesus now sets the captives free
 - 1) Heb. 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death --that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- IV) V15 HE: Made a show, public spectacle (Victorious troops, conquered enemies)
 - a) Triumphal parade, leading captured princes and kings, with the spoils of victory
 - 1) As He was hanging on the cross, His greatest moment of apparent weakness was in reality the moment of His greatest triumph: His death was His means of disarming them and subjugating them
 - 2) Not only are we set free from the guilt of sin, but also from its power over us
 - 3) BY COMPLETING FORGIVING US: We are set completely free from the power and guilt