

Colossians 2 Verse 14 Blotting Out The Handwriting Of Ordinances

A Communion Message

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

As we see in the text, Paul is sending a message to the saints, those born again and practicing Christianity. Here Paul is warning them against false teachers and prophets and the old human nature. Paul is reminding them that some men are very good orators and that is what they do; they tell people what they want to hear. He is warning against letting traditions be the guiding light of your life, and leading you astray, from the pathway of the Truth and the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 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: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Paul is telling every Christian; you are a Christian because of what Christ has done and you are complete in Christ, not in carrying out traditions. Paul reminds us that Jesus "*is the head of all principality and power*" and we have no other to be obedient too.

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;

You were dead but through the power of Christ you have been born again and in so doing, Christ has brought about the forgiveness of your sins. Christ has done what was impossible for you and I to do; He has presented us to God the Father as sinless because of the sacrifice of himself on our behalf.

14 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;

What does Paul mean when he says; "*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us*"? We know that according to scripture seen in: *Ga 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* We understand that the "*handwriting of ordinances*" is a reference to the sacrificial/ceremonial law. Moses was given the Ten Commandments and they were written by the finger of God in the tables of stone. Moses was given all the rituals of the sacrificial/ceremonial law service and was commanded to write them down.

We understand that under the sacrificial/ceremonial law service, the penalty of sin was death. Remember these scriptures, and many others:

Ro 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

We are reminded here that when Adam, the first man, fell in sin; we all fell in sin with him. How? Because all the earth's population came from Adam and Eve after they fell in sin; therefore, we all inherited the sin nature of the fallen man.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are reminded here plainly that the penalty of sin is death.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on

incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We understand from this text that death comes by sin and sin comes by the law. This then is the handwriting of ordinances from which the shed and atoning blood of Jesus Christ removed us.

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

What does Paul mean by "**having spoiled principalities and powers**"? Paul is saying that in giving his life upon the cross at Calvary, Christ yielded to the powers of the world, sin and satan, and in doing this accomplished the will of God the Father. However, neither death, nor the grave, could keep Christ from his rightful position on the throne of God, and after 3 days he arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave. Christ showed himself, risen from the dead, to so many, that there can be no true denying that he has risen from the dead, victorious, and has ascended back to the Father's throne, in the eternal heaven, and taken his rightful place there. There, upon the Throne of God, Christ Jesus acts as our advocate. Christ, as our advocate before God the Father, has given us eternal forgiveness for our sins. Christ has thereby "**Blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us**" in eternity. Remember however, this does not take away the consequence of our sins on earth in time; nor does it relieve us of the responsibility to do that which is right in the sight of the Lord.

Praise God, that Jesus "**is the head of all principality and power**" and in Him we live, and move, and have our being. Christ, in us, is the source of our power, and strength, to resist sin and to live the life of a Christian bringing forth good fruit. We see a further picture of this in scripture in:

Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Thus, we see the reason we can come to the communion table, be partakers of the blessings of salvation by grace, eat of the Bread of Life, and drink of the Water of Life, in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord! Hallelujah! We have victory in Jesus! Amen!

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