

Colossians 2:8-15 New International Version (NIV)

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, **10** and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[b] was put off when you were circumcised by^[c] Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working

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8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers^[a] of this world, rather than from Christ. **9** For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.^[b] **10** So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

11 When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.^[c] **12** For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the

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8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, ^[a]rather than according to Christ. **9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, **10** and in Him you have been made ^[b]complete, and He is the head ^[c]over all rule and authority; **11** and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; **12** having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who

of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** 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. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[e]

Footnotes:

- a. **Colossians 2:8** Or *the basic principles*; also in verse 20
- b. **Colossians 2:11** In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.
- c. **Colossians 2:11** Or *put off in the circumcision of*
- d. **Colossians 2:13** Some manuscripts *us*
- e. **Colossians 2:15** Or *them*

mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. **15** In this way, he disarmed^[d] the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Footnotes:

- a. **2:8** Or *the spiritual principles*; also in **2:20**.
- b. **2:9** Or *in him dwells all the completeness of the Godhead bodily*.
- c. **2:11** Greek *the cutting away of the body of the flesh*.
- d. **2:15** Or *he stripped off*.

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raised Him from the dead. **13** When you were dead ^[d]in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** When He had ^[e]disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through ^[f]Him.

Footnotes:

- a. **Colossians 2:8** Lit *and not*
- b. **Colossians 2:10** Lit *full*
- c. **Colossians 2:10** Lit *of*
- d. **Colossians 2:13** Or *by reason of*
- e. **Colossians 2:15** Or *divested Himself of*
- f. **Colossians 2:15** Or *it*; i.e. the cross

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