

WARM-UP

WORD

¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having 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. **COLOSSIANS 2:11,12**

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 2:13-15**.)

The Apostle Paul explained the fullness of who Christ is and what He has done for us in his letter to the church in Colossae. He knew that the only way they would resist false teachings is to know, understand, and believe in the gospel. Christ paid the full price for our redemption and for our reconciliation to the Father. In Him, we who were dead, in debt, and defeated can live, be forgiven, and be victorious. In this lesson, we will look at what Christ has done for us.

1 Christ died in our place.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses . . . **COLOSSIANS 2:13**

We deserved to die for our sins. But because of God's mercy and love, Christ took our place. In Him, we are made alive and new. Now, when God sees us, He sees Christ's atoning sacrifice. What were we dead on? Who made us alive?

2 Christ paid for our sins.

¹³. . . God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

COLOSSIANS 2:13,14

Because of our sin and rebellion against God, we owed a debt we could not pay. Now, in Christ, we have been forgiven of all this and our debt has been cancelled on the cross. Only Jesus can offer us the forgiveness for our sins—and there is nothing we can or should do to deserve this. In Luke 7:47, why do you think Jesus said that forgiveness results in love? How much have you been forgiven? How much should you love?

3 Christ defeated demonic powers.

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. **COLOSSIANS 2:15**

(Read also **EPHESIANS 6:10-13**.)

Christ not only gave us redemption and forgiveness; He also gave us victory over every spiritual force of evil. This should not cause us to be in fear of the enemy or to be overly curious about him. Rather, it should cause us to be confident in Christ's victory and to be assured that He has ultimate power and authority. Since the spiritual realm is real, how should we respond, according to Ephesians 6:13?
