

“New Lives for Old”

The Cosmic Supremacy of Christ

Col. 2:11-12 • pt. 17

INTRODUCTION

- Christ first brings new life on the inside
- the genuine thing will produce obvious life on the outside
- the rash of pretenders and false teachers

“Apostasy always moves the religious focus from the inward to the outward, from humble obedience to empty formality.”

– author unknown

1. Religious rites

- circumcision
 - + an external...not an eternal act
Rom. 4:11-12; Gal. 6:15
 - + pointed to our deep spiritual need
Deut. 10:16; Jer. 4:4
Rom. 2:28-29

- baptism
 - + is NT baptism the same as OT circumcision?
 - “household baptisms”
Acts 16:15, 33
 - “believer’s baptism”
Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48
 - + a symbolic act depicting the believer’s union with Christ

2. Spiritual realities

- context: completeness in Christ (2:9-11)
- the believer’s benefit: the dominating power of sin broken
 - + circumcision an act of God
Deut. 30:6
 - “body of flesh” *cut off*
Rom. 6:6
 - yet the battle due to the presence of sin remains
1 Jn. 2:16
 - + baptism an act of God
 - Spirit baptism *v.* water baptism
 - same energizing power
Rom. 6:3-4

APPLICATION