

“A Change Of Heart”
Colossians 2:11-12

Introduction:

1. Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Colossians 2 This Morning:
 - As We Continue To Explore With The Apostle Paul:
 - The Vast Spiritual Treasury:
 - That We Find In Jesus Christ!
 - Of Course:
 - **He** Is Our **Greatest** Treasure As Christians!
 - And That Is Why - As We Learned Last Week:
 - We Can Be & Should Be **Captivated:**
 - **Entirely By Him!**
 - **IE:** I Remember When I Was In Elementary School In Colorado, We Went On A Field Trip To The Denver Mint! I Was Fascinated As They Made The All Same Coins That Would End Up In My Pocket! But When I Saw Some Of Their Bars - Or Bricks - Of Solid Gold On Display - Weighing Over 25 Pounds - And Worth Over \$500,000 Each - I Was Captivated! Wouldn't You Be?
2. Yet - The Glory & The Beauty Of Christ:
 - Is Even More Captivating!
 - Because - As It Says In 2:9:
 - “In Him Dwelleth All The Fulness Of The Godhead Bodily!”
 - Our God Is So Much Greater Than Gold!
3. But - It Is Through:
 - The **Divine Fulness** Of Christ:
 - That He **Fills Us!**
 - As We Are Told In - 2:10 - “And Ye Are Complete – Filled Up – In Him!”
 - This Is Why The Lord Is Such A Great Treasure!
 - All Of His Divine Resources Are Available To Us:
 - As Christians!
4. But Also - It Is Through:
 - The **Divine Fulness** Of Christ:
 - That He **Finishes Us!**
 - And We Find This Truth In The Next Two Verses Of This Chapter:
 - 2:11-12 - Where Paul Writes - “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: / 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!”
 - In These Verses, Paul Describes Another Great Blessing That Christians Have:
 - In The Treasury Of Christ!
 - It Is The **Completion** Of A Work:
 - That God Started All The Way Back In The Old Testament:
 - When He Provided First To Abraham & Then To Moses & The Children Of Israel:
 - The Ritual Of Circumcision As A Physical Sign & Seal Of His Covenant With Them!
5. But - Even In The Old Testament:
 - The Sign Of Circumcision - Which Is Mentioned Over 100x!
 - Represented Something More!
 - It Was Also A Symbol:
 - Of The Separation Of God's People From The World Around Them!
 - It Set Them Apart:
 - And Became A Physical Object Lesson:
 - Of What They Were To God & What They Needed To Be Themselves!
 - More & More Separated & Consecrated To The Lord!
6. But This Circumcision & This Separation:
 - Was Meant To Go Even Deeper!
 - It Wasn't To Be Just A Physical Change!
 - It Was To Reflect A Spiritual Change!
 - It Was To Represent **A Change Of Heart!**

- This Is Why:
 - In Deuteronomy 10:12 & 16:
 - God's People Are Told - "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul!" - And Then He Adds - "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of *your heart*, and be no more stiffnecked!"

- The Only Way:
 - The Children Of Israel:
 - Could Follow The Lord The Way He Required:
 - And With The Love & Service & Passion He Deserved:
 - Was With *A Change Of Heart!*
 - But - Who Can Change Their Heart? I Can't! You Can't! Noone Can! You May Be Able To Change Your Habits, But You Cannot Change Your Heart!

- And God Knows This!
 - Which Is Why Later - In Deuteronomy 30:6:
 - The Lord Makes This Promise - "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live!"

7. And So - When We Come Back To:

- Colossians 2:11 - And Read These Words:
 - "In Whom - In Christ - Also Ye Are Circumcised!"
 - Paul Is Telling Us That:
 - Jesus Christ Has *Finished* The Work He *Started* In The Old Testament:
 - Which Was Only Symbolized Through Circumcision!

- And We Can Learn From This:
 - That Only Jesus Can Give You What You Really Need!
 - *Only Christ Can Change Your Heart!*

8. So - Before We Continue In These Verses:

- I Want To Ask You This Question:
 - What Is Your Heart Like Today?
 - Not What Others Think Your Heart Is Like!
 - Not Even What You Think Your Heart Is Like!
 - But How Does God See Your Heart?
 - You See - Apart From God's Work Of Grace In Your Heart:
 - Your Heart Will Always Be:
 - A Heart That Is:
 - Dark & Deceitful & Desperately Wicked!
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - In Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
 - This Describes My Heart & This Describes Your Heart - Apart From Christ!

- And This Is Why:
 - We All Have This Great Need!
 - We Need *A Change Of Heart!*
 - And *A Circumcised Heart!*
 - And So - Through The "Circumcision Of Christ" That We Find In 2:11 - We Discover:

1. *The Great Purpose Of This Change!*

- God Originally Gave The Children Of Israel:
 - The Sign Of Circumcision:
 - To Remind Them That:
 - He Chose Them!
 - He Called Them!
 - And He Commanded Them:
 - To Be Different & Separate From The World!
 - And This Was A Good Thing:
 - As Far As It Went!
 - In Romans 4:11 - Paul Even Describes It As "A Seal Of The Righteousness Of The

- Faith!”
- But - We Still Can See:
- The Problem With This Change!
 - Because - The Change Brought About By Circumcision In The Old Testament Was Only:
 - A Physical & An External Change!
 - But - As People Often Do - The Jews Changed It From Just A Sign - To The Very Substance Of Their Relationship With God!
 - And This Seems To Have Been The Root:
 - Of The False Teaching:
 - That Was Threatening The Church In Colosse!
 - Certain Jewish Members Or Teachers:
 - Claimed That The Ritual Of Circumcision Still Applied To Christians!
 - In Acts 15:1 - It Is Put Very Bluntly:
 - “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved!”
 - They Claimed That Circumcision:
 - Provided Something Better!
 - A Better Belief!
 - A Better Belonging!
 - And Even Better Blessing!
 - But - They Had Forgotten About:
- The Promise Of This Change!
 - It Was **God** Who Promised:
 - To Circumcise & To Change:
 - The Hearts Of His People:
 - So That They Could “Love the LORD [their] God with all [their] heart, and with all [their] soul!”
 - And It Is This Promise:
 - That Is Fulfilled In Jesus Christ:
 - For The Christian!
 - Because - When You Put Your Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior - He Finishes This Work In You!
 - He Gives You **A Change Of Heart!**
 - 2:11 - “In Whom – In Christ – Also Ye Are Circumcised!”
 - There Is Nothing More That Needs To Be Done:
 - Than Has Already Been Done:
 - By Jesus Christ - For Your Salvation!
 - And Now:
 - With This Change Of Heart:
 - You Can Love & Live For The Lord Today!
 - Separated & Consecrated & Dedicated - To Him!
 - Remember:
 - **Only Christ Can Change Your Heart!**
 - And This Leads Us To:

2. ***The Great Provision Of This Change!***

- With This Background About Circumcision:
 - Paul Continues - 2:11 - “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!”
 - Here - Paul Reminds Us That:
 - The Change Of Heart:
 - Given To Us By Christ - Is Far Better Than The Sign Used In The Old Testament! It Is Better Because:
 - It Is A Spiritual Change!
 - It Is A “Circumcision Made Without Hands!”
 - This Means - That Instead Of Merely A Physical & An External Change - Like Jewish Circumcision:
 - It Is A Spiritual Change!

- A Change Of Heart!
- And This Is What Makes All The Difference!
 - Paul Points This Out In Romans 2:28-29 - “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: / But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God!”
 - It Is Your Heart That Matters To The Lord! And This Is Why:
- It Is [Also] A Complete Change!
 - Paul Describes It As The - “Putting Off The Body Of The Sins Of The Flesh!”
 - This Means - That Instead Of A Partial Change - Like Jewish Circumcision:
 - It Is A Complete Change!
 - A Complete Change Of Heart!
 - This Is What Christ Has Done For You!
 - He Took All Of The Sins Of Your Flesh:
 - Cut Them Off From You:
 - And Then Cast Them Away!
 - **IE:** Its Like What You Would Do With An Old, Blood-Soaked Bandage! Get Rid Of It!
 - Jesus Christ Has Changed Your Heart So Completely:
 - That Now You **Can** Love Him & Live For Him:
 - As You Were Created To Do!
 - Also:
- It Is A Divine Change!
 - Paul Calls This Change:
 - “The Circumcision Of Christ!”
 - Christ Alone Can Change Your Heart In This Way!
 - After All - He Remains The Creator & Controller & Captain Over All Things!
(Chapter 1)
- Have You Experienced:
 - This Kind Of Change?
 - Has The Old Testament Promise:
 - Been Fulfilled In Your Own Heart?
 - If It Is Still Something You Need:
 - Remember - It Is Not Something:
 - You Can Change On Your Own!
 - Just Like The Leopard Cannot Change Its Own Spots:
 - You Cannot Change Your Own Heart!
 - Instead - You Must Turn To & Trust In:
 - Christ To Change You!
 - From The Inside Out!
 - And When He Does:
 - It Will Be So Much Better:
 - Than You Ever Thought Possible!
 - It Is A Spiritual Change, It Is A Complete Change, It Is A Divine Change!
 - Because:
 - **Only Christ Can Change Your Heart!**
 - And He Made It All Possible Through:

3. ***The Great Process Of This Change!***

- How Can Jesus Even Change:
 - Hearts Like Ours?
 - Because - When You Trust Him - You Are Then United With Him!
 - And You Now Have:
 - A New Identification – With Christ!
 - According To 2:12 - You Have Been:
 - “Buried With Him!”
 - This Is The Process Jesus Uses To “Cut Away” The “Sins Of Your Flesh” From “Off Your Body!”
 - Jesus Died **For** Your Sin So That You Could Die **To** Your Sin!

- But Also:
 - According To 2:12 - You Have Been:
 - “Risen With Him!”
 - So That Now You Can Live They Way God Originally Intended For You To Live!
 - In “Newness Of Life” – With Him & For Him!
 - And With This Change - There Is Also:
- A New Illustration!
 - The Illustration Of Baptism!
 - 2:12 - “Buried with him in baptism!”
 - In The Old Testament:
 - The Sign Of Circumcision:
 - Was Used To Remind God’s People:
 - Of What Was To Come!
 - In The New Testament:
 - The Sign Of Baptism:
 - Is Used To Remind God’s People:
 - Of What **Has** Come - And What Has Already Happened To Them!
 - This Is Why We Believe In:
 - And Practice Believer’s Baptism!
 - Because Even Though Circumcision & Baptism Are Both Signs & Symbols For God’s People:
 - They Are Still Quite Different!
 - And So - Paul Wants You To Remember:
 - That - Christian Baptism Is An Illustration:
 - Of What You Believe In & Rely Upon:
 - For Salvation! The Death, Burial & Resurrection Of Christ!
 - Paul Describes It This Way In Romans 6:3-4 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / Therefore 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!”
 - And This Is Why God Provided:
- A New Invitation!
 - Because The “Change Of Heart” That You Need:
 - And That I Need - Can Only Come:
 - 2:12 - “Through The Faith Of The Operation Of God!”
 - Baptism Does Not Save You Or Change You:
 - Any More Than Circumcision Did!
 - You & I Are Only Saved “By Grace Through Faith!”
 - This Means That – There Is Nothing More You Need:
 - And There Is Nothing More You Can Do:
 - To Have This Change Of Heart:
 - Than To “Believe” In The Powerful Work Of God Through The Gospel!
 - John Lightfoot Once Wrote:
 - “Only By A Belief In The Resurrection Are The Benefits Of The Resurrection Obtained!”
 - This Is Also True About The Benefits Of Christ’s Death & Burial As Well!
 - You Must **Believe** In The Process God Has Provided:
 - Because:
 - **Only Christ Can Change Your Heart!**

Conclusion:

1. Have You Done That?
 - Have You & Are You:
 - Trusting In What Jesus Christ Has Already Done:
 - To Change Your Heart?
2. You **Can** Trust In Him:
 - Because He Is Worthy Of Your Trust!
 - At The End Of 2:12 - Paul Reminds Us That:
 - It Was God “Who hath raised him – Christ – from the dead!”

- This Is The Great Proof:
 - For This Change Of Heart!
 - If God The Father:
 - Can Raise Up Jesus From The Dead:
 - Then Changing Your Heart – Your:
 - Dark & Deceitful & Desperately Wicked:
 - And Even Dead Heart:
 - Is Not Too Difficult For Him To Do!
3. Because - Once You:
 - Turn To & Trust In Him:
 - You Have Already Been Given:
 - What You've Always Needed:
 - A Change Of Heart!
 - And Why Did God Give You:
 - This New Kind Of Heart?
 - So That - 2:6 - “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk ye in him!*”
4. If You Are Trusting In Christ:
 - Than You Have All You Need:
 - To Walk In Him!
 - Don't Let Anyone Convince You Otherwise!
 - **IE:** From Time To Time, We've Gotten A Knock On Our Door From Some Jehovah's Witnesses! The Last Time - The Lady I Spoke With Said She Grew Up In A Baptist Church & Once Believed The Same Way I Did - But Then - She Felt Like There Had To Be Something More!
 - So - Things Haven't Really Changed All That Much Since Paul Wrote These Words!
5. This Is Why:
 - He Makes So Much:
 - Of Christ In His Letter To The Colossians!
 - And This Is Why You Need To:
 - Stay Captivated By Christ!
 - Because Only Christ:
 - Can Provide What You Need!
 - **Only Christ Can Change Your Heart!**
 - **Has** He Changed:
 - And **Is** He Changing:
 - **Yours?**

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