

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

December 16, 2020

Colossians 2:13-15

Spoiler Alert

Today's passage raises a question. Let's lay down some facts first. Verse 13 takes believers a bit back in time to our sinful days. Paul calling us dead and uncircumcised hurts a little but in referring back to verse 6 we know these folks to be saved and so we must be included. All of God's Word is an "if the shoe fits, wear it" sort of thing. This passage describes us because we identify with the position of the Colossians. We learn our role in the bible by seeing ourselves reflected in it and acknowledging the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through it. The phrase "quicken together" with him is an interesting Greek word, *suzōpoieō*, meaning jointly reanimated. Figuratively, when Christ rose from the dead we rose with him. This being an experience somehow outside of time. In his foreknowledge He saved us at his resurrection even before our own birth. Compare Romans 8:29 with 5:8. Admit it, God gets more awesome as you come to know Him better. Finally ALL your sins or trespasses are and always were forgiven. Our only role here is that of faith in accepting the offer of Christ. He always knew us through eternity.

Moving on to verse 14 we consider the handwriting of God. Hard to think about blotting out what God writes but He through Jesus is doing the blotting. This handwriting or "cheirographon" in the Greek, speaks of a legal document or manuscript. The Law of God condemns us with an irrevocable debt of punishment. It has to be paid. 1 John 2:1-2. Jesus, our advocate, fully paid our debt, He being the only One worthy and able to do so. How has the handwriting of God been addressed through His Word? The Hand of God wrote in stone, the very commandments that condemned us and progressively wrote them on our hearts. Paul goes into some detail on this in 2 Corinthians 3:2-7. Jesus' death effectively blotted them out to us who believe. God also personally wrote the doom of King Belshazzar into the plaster of the wall recounted to us in Daniel chapter 5. No blotting here. God meant what He said. It is said Jesus never wrote anything we know of but there is one account we overlook. See John 8:3-11. Wouldn't you love to know what He wrote in the sand? Was it the names of the guilty parties involved in the story? Jeremiah 17:13. Or perhaps the sins of the Scribes and Pharisees holding the stones? Job 13:26. He could blot out their sin as easy as wiping the sand but their self righteous arrogance prevented that. We sometimes work so hard to erase our sin or pay for it or explain it away. Thank the Lord who did all this for us!

Verse 15 tells us Jesus spoiled, disarmed or stripped the power of the demonic forces that hate our souls and our Savior. We are further told that in His triumph He "made a shew" of them or "exhibited" in shame. Sounds like a done deal. Here arises the question raised in the opening statement of our study. This query was literally posed by a confused saint during Sunday's sermon. If Jesus blotted out our sin and paraded the shame of defeated evil spirits, why then is there still evil in the world? Our answer to this may well be the "Spoiler Alert". When you've already seen a movie it can be difficult not to blurt out the ending to a first time viewer. Bad things are happening to the stars of the movie but we know everything will turn out alright. God saw the movie! In fact He wrote the script! It seems somewhat that we are the actors and we must live out the whole story. We could be the audience filled with suspense as others endure

the suspense of life. Either way our Mighty God has a plan and a purpose for every scene and it will all take place as written. Our place here is to trust Him with the results. Romans 8:28. In trusting Him we must believe He knows how this will end. Isaiah 46:10. If you are able, grab some popcorn and enjoy the good parts and when it gets scary hide behind your pillow. Fear not. He's got this. Luke 8:49-50.