

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10, NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Made Alive

"God was well-pleased," affirmed Paul to the Corinthian brethren, "through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). The message is not peddled or sold; it is *announced* with all the necessary backing from Him who sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high. The word of God has to be sharper than any two-edged sword; it has to pierce dulled hearts, pry open deaf ears, and penetrate blind eyes. Blessed indeed, in the words of Jesus, are those whose hearts have been pierced as at Pentecost, 30 AD, and "your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear" (Matthew 13:16). Thus it is that those who have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's Son have had their understanding moved from the physical to the spiritual, and comprehend the power of the preached word to save and to strengthen.

- ◆ **Dead in your transgressions** — Man without the information from what is now God's written revelation does not know about the effects of sin in regard to his relationship or fellowship with God. To some degree he knows what sin is, or that word would not exist in his vocabulary. But without the message preached he would not know that he is separated from God by his first sin, and he would have no clue what to do about it. "You were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh," the apostle Paul reminds the brethren. He has just finished talking about how the brethren were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision in the removal of the body of flesh by virtue of their immersion into Christ. But now he goes back to re-emphasize the dreadfulness of their condition prior to that circumcision made without hands — dead!

- ◆ **Together with Christ** — The opposite of death, of course, is life. Life! Life! Life! The contrast has to be super emphasized to pierce dulled hearts, pry open deaf ears, and penetrate blinded eyes. When you were dead, says the Holy Spirit through Paul, "He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions" (Colossians 2:13). Not only is the condition of saint prior to his conversion re-emphasized, but the awesomeness and wonderfulness of what happens next is re-emphasized as well — of his being brought to life in Christ, coming up out of the waters of immersion, raised up by the same power God used in raising Jesus from the dead. This considerable power (that God used in raising Jesus from the dead and seating Him at the right hand of power) is greater than the power God used in bringing the universe into existence. And the Almighty would like His saints to know that this power was not only used in bringing them into existence as new creations in Christ, but that same power is also used to strengthen and sustain them daily in the spiritual battles they fight in overcoming the forces of darkness.

All of this takes place in the realm of faith, the realm of the unseen. It cannot be overstated that all anyone can know about that realm is what is revealed in the word of God. "The word of God is living and active," but this is only seen by an eye trained by that word (Hebrews 4:12). "In the exercise of His will," said James, "He brought us forth by the word of truth" (James 1:18). "You have been born again," added Peter, "not of the seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, the living and abiding word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). God has sent forth His word into the world, revealing the greatness of His salvation and His plan for spiritual union with those who are willing to walk in His ways. Those who were thus dead in their sins and transgressions have been made alive in Christ through their obedience to the gospel as revealed in the written word. "And this is the word which was preached to you!" (1 Peter 1:25).

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sions into Christ.*

JAY WILSON