

Series: What Is A Passionate Christ-follower?
Message: A Passionate Christ-follower Has Found Life
Col 2:8-15

1. **The emptiness of philosophy vs. the fullness of Christ** 8-10
2. **The deadness of sin vs. life in Christ** 11-15
 - A. We lived in the deadness of sin 11-13a
 1. Christ has dealt with the nature of the believer 11-12
 - a. Our sinful nature has been put off 11a
 1. Putting off – stripping off and casting away; getting out of your clothes and walking away from them
 2. Our old nature (our carnal flesh) has been stripped from us and has been wholly put away
 3. Our old nature was made inoperative so that we no longer have to live as slaves to our sinful desires
 4. The power of our flesh to cause us to sin has been broken by the blood of Christ and when we walk in obedience to Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit we live in victory
 5. The only way our flesh can dominate us again is when we allow it to. When we pick it up again
 - b. How has our sinful nature been put off?
 1. We received a spiritual circumcision 11
 - a. Circumcision was a sign of God’s covenant with the Jewish people that was physical in nature but had spiritual significance – It showed that they needed an internal cleansing from God
 - b. God is always concerned with the heart of a person Deut 30:6 “The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live”
 - c. There were some who were teaching that the followers of Christ had to be circumcised in order to be right with God
 - d. This was an added rule of legalism
 - e. There are some today that would have us believe that if we do certain things (read the Bible, serve, pray – which we should do) and don’t do certain

- things (gamble, do drugs, drink) we are good Christians
 - f. I need to remind you that a Christian is one who has a personal relationship with Christ, not one who follows certain rules
 - g. The truth is that a physical operation or physical works can never gain spiritual grace
 - h. While separating from the world is right and doing what God commands the believer is right, that is not how a person is saved. Salvation comes by faith in the work of Christ on the cross
2. We have identified with Christ 12
 - a. Baptism in the Bible is both literal and figurative – this is figurative and means to identify with
 - b. We were identified with Christ as we were baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit when we received Christ as Savior 1 Cor 12:13 “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body”
 - c. We are so identified with Christ that whatever happened to Him has happened to us
 - d. When Christ died, we died in Him. When Christ was buried, we were buried with Him. When Christ rose to life, we rose to life
 - e. All of this took place through faith in the power of God who allowed Jesus to take our place in dying for our sins 12b
 2. Our condition as sinners 13a
 - a. We were dead in our sins with no spiritual life
 - b. We lived as slaves to our sinful nature, unable to respond to anything spiritual, even to God Himself
 - c. The Bible made no sense to us and we lived lives dominated by our fleshly desires
- B. We have received life in Christ 13b-15
 1. God made us alive in Christ 13b
 - a. We received new life from Christ
 - b. This is not a reconditioned life, like when we get in an accident in our car and get it repaired
 - c. We were given a brand new life in Christ 2 Cor 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

- d. Paul's portrayal of the Christian being taken from death to life Eph 2:1-10
 - e. We are not the same people we were before salvation, that is why we are told to live a different way than before we were given new life Col 1:10-12
2. God forgave all of our sins 13c
 - a. Every sin of the believer has been completely forgiven
 - b. We are no longer under God's condemnation and wrath Rom 8:1 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"
 - c. No charge against us will ever stand Rom 8:33-34 "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us"
 - d. Being forgiven by God is the greatest thing a person can experience Ps 32:1 "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered"
 3. God cancelled the law that stood between us 14
 - a. Until Christ came, people were required to fulfill the Law given by God in the Old Testament
 - b. People lived in frustration because they couldn't fulfill the Law – they kept sinning
 - c. The Law was against us and stood opposed to us – it was enough to condemn us
 - d. The law was canceled – to wipe off like erasing a whiteboard
 - e. The indictment against us has been canceled because it was paid in full by Christ
 - f. Christ fulfilled the Law and nailed it to the cross in complete victory, so that now all we have to do is to look to Christ to find complete forgiveness
 - g. No longer do we live to please God by fulfilling a bunch of regulations, we live to please God by having a love relationship with Him
 4. God triumphed over the enemy 15
 - a. Christ disarmed the powers and authorities 15a
 1. Disarmed – stripped; they were stripped of their power over people
 2. The enemy's weapons are useless against a believer
 3. It is only when we cease to put on the armor of God, cease to be prayerful and careful about how we live that the enemy's weapons are powerful against us
 4. The reason so many Christians live in spiritual defeat is that they are not walking in Christ's in His power
- b. Christ made a public spectacle of the enemy 15b
 1. Christ exposed Satan for who he is – a liar, a deceiver, the enemy of God
 2. Christ exhibited Satan to the world as His captive
 - c. Christ is victorious 15c
 1. Whenever a Roman general won a great victory, he was honored by an official parade known as, "the Roman triumph"
 2. Jesus led a triumphal procession back to heaven in complete victory
 3. The cross defeated Satan – he is a doomed foe

Questions

- Have you found life in Christ?
- Are you trying to please God by fulfilling a list, or do you simply love Him?