

MADE WITHOUT HANDS ...



TRUSTING IN THE POWERFUL WORKING OF GOD ...



ACCORDING TO CHRIST ...

OUTLINE – (Colossians 2:6-15 ESV)

1. [REVIEW]... Those who have received Christ Jesus the Lord are to live under the lordship of Christ so that they will not be taken captive, 2:6-8.

- (Colossians 2:6–8 ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

2. Those who do not submit themselves to the lordship of Christ Jesus will not live in the fullness of Christ and will remain imprisoned in conflicted lives of empty deceit and human wisdom, 2:9-10.

- (Colossians 2:9–10 ESV) For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

If all the fullness of God is in Christ, and we have been filled (completed) in him, and if he is the supreme ruler and authority over everything for every age to come—meaning he can never be overruled or overpowered—then why would a person ever look anywhere else for anything more? How could a person think like that? Because they have been taken captive.

So how does a person escape this spiritual captivity? And how do he or she resolve the conflict and contradiction of heart and mind this captivity brings?

3. When we live under the lordship of Christ Jesus, we will come to the rich assurance that our salvation is accomplished fully and completely through the powerful work of God, 2:11-15, cf. 1:9-10, 2:2-3.

We will come to understand and accept that “in Christ” through the powerful working of God we have been given new lives “made without hands.” As that understanding grows we will live in the fullness of Christ and the conflicts of conscience and contradictions of mind and heart will be resolved/defeated as we fully accept the word of God.

- (Colossians 2:11–15 ESV) In him also you were circumcised with **a circumcision made without hands**, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been **buried with him** in baptism, in which you were also **raised with him** through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

TESTING “MADE WITHOUT HANDS” **“HAND-MADE” OR “GOD-MADE”**

TEST #1: The test of origin. Where did it come from? Did you receive detailed, specific instructions from God for your creation?

- (Exodus 25:9 ESV) Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

TEST #2: The test of reverence. Do you venerate or revere something that should not be revered? How could you tell? Could you throw it in the trash dumpster?

TEST #3: The test of setting aside. Does it set aside anything that God has specifically instructed us to do? Does it in any way usurp or supersede the word of God? The cistern test.

- (Jeremiah 2:12–13 ESV) Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, 13 for my

people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

**AS BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST,
WE ARE "IN CHRIST!"**

The term "in Christ" means that in the eternal reality of the spiritual realm—the unseen world as revealed to us in the Bible, **i.e. the real world of God**—in that reality we are "in Christ." We are in fact corporately (believers as a group) his body.

This is the baptism of the Spirit whereby upon believing in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit placed us (immersed us) into one body—that being the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- (1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV) For **in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
- (Galatians 3:26–27 ESV) For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.
- (Romans 6:3–4 ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ** Jesus were **baptized into his death**? 4 We were **buried therefore with him** by baptism into death, in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

We speak of our "position" in Christ and it is accurate to describe this as our position but only looking at this as our position, or status, falls woefully short of what God has done.

We are now "in Christ." We are part of him.

- (1 Corinthians 1:29–30 ESV) So that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 **And because of him you are in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

"In Christ" we are now seated "with him" in the heavenly places. We cannot fully

comprehend what this means. We just are not capable to do so.

- (Ephesians 2:5–6 ESV) Even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— 6 and **raised us up with him** and **seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

But what we must do to grow in our faith is to accept this clear instruction based on our very strong relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and live in view of who we now are "in Christ." We are his body. Could there possibly be a stronger, more intimate connection to our Savior and Lord than this?

Here are some verses upon which we can draw upon to base many strong conclusions concerning our new life in Christ.

- (Romans 8:1 ESV) There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**
- (Romans 3:24 ESV) And are **justified by his grace** as a gift, through the **redemption** that is **in Christ Jesus.**
- (Romans 6:11 ESV) So you also must consider yourselves **dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- (Romans 6:23 ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- (Romans 8:2 ESV) For the law of the Spirit of life has set you **free in Christ Jesus** from the law of sin and death.
- (1 Corinthians 1:29–30 ESV) So that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 **And because of him you are in Christ Jesus**, who became to us **wisdom** from God, **righteousness** and **sanctification** and **redemption.**
- (1 Corinthians 15:22 ESV) For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive.**
- (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV) Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- (Galatians 3:26–27 ESV) For **in Christ Jesus**

you are all sons of God, through faith. 27
For as many of you as were baptized into
Christ have put on Christ.

- (Ephesians 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**
- (Ephesians 2:13 ESV) **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

The works of our hands originate in deceitful hearts and natural minds incapable of receiving or understanding the ways and thoughts of God.

- (Jeremiah 17:9) / (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- (Deuteronomy 27:15 ESV) **Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image**, an abomination to the LORD, **a thing made by the hands of a craftsman**, and sets it up in secret. And all the people shall answer and say, "Amen."
- (Isaiah 2:8 ESV) Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to **what their own fingers have made.**
- (Jeremiah 1:16 ESV) And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and **worshiped the works of their own hands.**
- (Jeremiah 44:25 ESV) Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have **declared with your mouths, and have fulfilled it with your hands**, saying, "We will surely perform our vows that we have made, to make offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her." Then confirm your vows and perform your vows!
- (Acts 7:41 ESV) And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were **rejoicing in the works of their**

hands.

COMMENTARY

2:11 - DICK LUCAS ... Every true disciple of Christ, then, grieves over his own carnality (fleshliness). "The law is spiritual; but I am carnal", laments Paul, for though he loved the law he could, even as a Christian, never fully attain it. Paul well knew how the young Christians at Colossae would be longing for freedom from the pull of the "flesh". He also knows how open this will make them to false promises of just such a freedom from the 'flesh' that may be offered to them. In this new work of God was offered a purification from "the body of flesh"; **in short, the new teachers may well have been offering what has often been called "the clean heart"**.

Now Paul's striking answer is that the Colossians already possess the only purification of which Christ is the source. [*Lucas, R. C. (1980). Fullness & freedom: the message of Colossians & Philemon (pp. 101-102). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.*]

2:11 - GRANT OSBORNE ... In the context of Paul's letter this becomes a metaphor for spiritual salvation, "a circumcision not performed by human hands," meaning a heart change. ... **In both Testaments "not performed by human hands" refers to something that is not of human origin and so clarifies the important point that linking salvation to believers' physical actions would be anchoring it in a human/idolatrous system.** [*Osborne, G. R. (2016). Colossians & Philemon: Verse by Verse (pp. 72-73). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.*]