

Yesterday morning, as we were starting out, I said that we were going to wind up talking about Love, but that we would get there by a circuitous route. But actually, all along the way, we were looking at the power of the Love of God on full display! We see the Love of The Father in The Son and that Love being reflected into us through the things that the Son has done. Mankind has been freed from the law of sin and death through

what Jesus, the Son of God, has accomplished through His death and the power of His resurrection, first for us, then to us, and now through us. We've been set free, the ultimate expression of Jubilee! Let's walk through it again, and let the Spirit of God take us higher!

Looking at these very profound truths, then comparing them to many things espoused in The Church today, can leave someone a bit confused. I get it, but as I pointed out yesterday, I didn't write these things, I'm simply telling you what they say. And what they say paints a clear picture of what Jesus The Christ, the Son of God, has accomplished, and it's available for all those who will lay hold to it, stand on it, and refuse to be removed from it. Here's the passage from Colossians 2, somewhat "enhanced". The verbs are all Aorist, a one-time-single-action considered in the past, except for one important exception, and I'll point that out.

v9 For contained in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of being God in a body; v10 Who is the head of all principality and authority, and contained in Him, you all have been filled, v11 and in Whom you all were circumcised with circumcision made without hands in the removal of the body of the sins of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ, v12 having been buried with Him in baptism, and in which you all were raised with Him by the energy of God, the One having raised Him out from the dead. v13 And you all, being dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all the transgressions, v14 having blotted out the handwriting of the volume of doctrines or decrees which were held over against us, and it has been taken out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. "Having been taken away" is in the perfect tense, a continuing action in the past having an ongoing effect or effect in the present. In other words, as Scott remarked yesterday, "the Blood still speaks". Now get the picture...

Circumcision is the mark of God's Covenant of Promise with Abraham, and when you cut away the skin, it's permanent, you can't put it back! God fulfilled His Promise in Jesus.. Paul says that Jesus cut away and removed the "body of the sins of the flesh". If that's true, it's gone. You can't put it back!

Take note, Paul also said that the "handwriting of the *dogma*", those doctrines, the ordinances or decrees being held over our head are not *just* blotted out, they *were* nailed to the cross and are there for all to see, covered in the Blood of The Risen Christ! Just like the "body of the sins of the flesh", they can't come back again! Jesus didn't *just* forgive us our trespasses, He removed what caused the transgression! Say What? Yeah, you can't transgress where there is no law! So why do we try to bring them back? Stay tuned! "**The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**" (Ro 8:2) We've been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him by the same energy that raised Jesus from the dead! But...

We do have a commandment, a "law". Love! But this is not some dogma to be held against us, it's affirmative action by the power of the Spirit of God being shed abroad in our hearts: and there is no "law" against it! Jesus said, "**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.**" This law, this commandment, this objective, is positive not negative. And it doesn't depend on you, it comes through Him! "**Christ contained in you, the expectation of the reflection!**" (Col 1:27)

Love never fails!

