

Who knew? I mean, I didn't! I'm sure there are people who do, but how come they didn't tell me and you? "Mark! What are you talking about?" "Fullness." Turns out the early Christians saw much more in that word that they talked about and wrote about that's past what we may think about. For now, let's just call it, "and then some". But before we go there let's see what it takes to get there. Let's look at something that we

covered last week and again yesterday and take it up a notch.

"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, 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. 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, 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." (Col 2:11-14, enhanced version) Our guilty sentence has not been "commuted", it's been "pardoned". It's been expunged, removed, and what caused it in the first place has been taken away too! It's just as if it never happened! And not only is there no record of any transgression, we've been recreated and reinstated with the full rights and privileges of children of God, and then some! We'll get there in a minute.

Sitting in a little country church nearly 50 years ago, while I was listening to my friend preach, 1Jn 4:18 spoke to me, and still reminds me often, of a very powerful Truth. **"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love."** It took a while for me to come to understand that "torment" is "fear of punishment." **"For fear has to do with punishment."** (ESV) When you come to realize that God is holding nothing against you, and that what *was* being held over against you has been taken out of the way by Jesus Himself, you have nothing to fear! And coming to experience His perfect, purposeful, only good, intention frees you to enter through faith into the and then some.

Early Christians had their own take of *pleroma*, "fullness", as it related to God. When they spoke of the fullness of God they envisioned the **"totality of Divine powers"**. We don't have space to go into all of the history here, but the message is unmistakably clear! Early on they considered something in a way that most folks today don't.

Last week we also went through Col 2:9&10, let's back up into that again. We translated *Theotes sumatikos* as "being God in a body" rather than "the Godhead bodily", but we left "fullness" alone. Now let's plug that in. **"For contained in Him (Jesus) dwells all the totality of Divine powers, being God in a body."** Wow! How perfect! How beautiful! But keep going! **"and contained in Him you have been filled, Who is the head of all principality and authority."** You've been filled with the One Who is filled with "the totality of Divine powers"! He is alive in you! One more...

In Eph 3:17-19 Paul is praying that Christ would begin to dwell in their hearts through faith, and that they may, **"...come to experience the purposeful good will of Christ, exceeding physical reality or human knowledge in order that into you all may be filled all the pleroma>Divine powers of God!** He got it, and he expected them to get it! And now I expect us to get it! Let **"The One (God) having power over all things produce out from overflowing abundance what we require or conceive down from the power being energized in us, His reflection contained in the Church and contained in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, world without end."** Amen! These words are true!

Love never fails!

