

LIVE STRONG . . . LIVE FREE

Colossians 2:11-23

- **In our LIVE STRONG series we've learned how to deepen our relationship with Jesus and live strong, vibrant and victorious lives (Colossians 2:1-10).**
- *"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ***What's MY STORY of how Jesus has brought transformation to my life?***
- **When Jesus comes into our lives some things happen that may not be obvious, but that enables us to really live vibrant and victorious lives.**
- Paul - *"When you came to Christ . . ."* (Colossians 2:11)
- ***What happens inwardly and spiritually when Jesus becomes our Savior?***

When We Came To Christ We Were:

RESCUED FROM OUR <u>SINFUL</u> <u>NATURE</u>

- *"When you came to Christ, you were 'circumcised', but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision - the cutting away of your sinful nature."* (Colossians 2:11)
- **The Jews, unlike other cultures in Paul's day, worshiped one God, and their males were circumcised to demonstrate their commitment to their God.**
- **A "spiritual circumcision" - an inward work of Christ that rescues us from our sinful nature - occurs when people become real followers of Jesus.**
- *"The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. . . . These two forces are constantly fighting each other."* (Galatians 5:17)
- **No one has ever made good decisions and lived a healthy and holy life when they've followed the desires of their sinful nature.**
- *"Letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace."* (Romans 8:6)
- ***What are some former aspects of my sinful nature that I've been rescued from since Jesus came into my life?***

When We Came To Christ We Were:

RAISED TO <u>NEW</u> <u>LIFE</u> IN CHRIST

- *"For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ . . ."* (Colossians 2:12-13)
- **The early Christians were baptized in water right after becoming followers of Jesus (Acts 2:37-38, 8:12-13, 26-40), symbolizing that they had been delivered from their old way of life and raised to a new and godlier life.**
- *"God is so rich in mercy . . . that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead."* (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- **Greek words translated "life" include - 1) "bios" (physical life), 2) "psuche" (the spiritual capacity of humans), and 3) "zoe" (our whole life or a full life).**
- Jesus - *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* (John 10:10)
- ***When did I take the step of "baptism by immersion," and in what ways has Jesus helped me to experience a more satisfying life?***

When We Came To Christ We Were:

EXONERATED FROM OUR <u>SINS</u>

- *"God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:13-14)
- **Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for humankind's sins.**
- *"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation."* (Romans 5:8-9)
- **When we receive Jesus as our Savior the Lord blots out the stain and eternal consequences of our sins, so we can have a relationship with Him.**
- *"God is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins."* (Ephesians 1:6-7)
- ***How should we respond to Jesus paying for and forgiving our sins?***

When We Came To Christ We Were:

FREED FROM <u>RELIGIOUS</u> <u>BONDAGES</u>

- *"So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. . . . Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels . . . Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ . . . So*

why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, 'Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!'? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires." (Colossians 2:16-23)

- **Jewish leaders in Jesus' day focused on religion and rituals rather than pursuing a relationship with God (Matthew 23:13-15).**
- **Many people today pursue religion rather than a relationship with God.**
- *"Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* (Ephesians 2:9)
- **Religion is about "doing"; while Christianity is about "experiencing" God.**

When We Came To Christ We Were:

JOINED TO THE <u>BODY</u> OF <u>CHRIST</u>

- *"For He holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it."* (Colossians 2:19)
- **When we become real followers of Jesus we become members of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), and we all have a part to play in His "body."**
- *"As our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. . . God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."* (Romans 12:4-6)
- *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)
- **The more connected and involved we are with the "Body of Christ" the stronger and more victorious we will be in our lives.**
- ***Where am I called to serve in the "Body of Christ"?***

- *"He (Jesus) canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross."* (Colossians 2:14-15)
- **As a result of Jesus' victory on the cross we can have God's forgiveness, freedom and fulfillment in this life, and the future of Heaven in the next life.**
- *"You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world."* (Colossians 2:20)