

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 8)

TEXT: Col. 2:11-13

INTRO: Having warned the Colossian believers of the dangers of intellectualism, Paul now confronts the danger of ritualism.

I. (vs. 11) Beware of Ritualism.

A. Jewish roots

NOTE: "The false teachers in Colossae were trying to bring their old Judaism into their new Christianity...they struggled to leave behind the now unnecessary elements of their Jewish way of life." *David Jeremiah*

B. Christian roots

NOTE: We are built upon Christ! Col. 2:1-3, 6, 9-10

II. (vs. 11) The Ritual

A. The ceremony of circumcision.

1. Physical in nature it was "a sign of God's covenant with the Jewish people (Gen. 17:9-14)."
2. It was meant to reflect spiritual truth (Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 6:10; Ez. 44:7; Rom. 2:25-29).

B. The controversy of Jewish legalism.

1. Judaizers taught that Gentile converts should be circumcised and obey the O.T. Law (Acts 15:1-32; Gal. 6:15).

NOTE: "Gnostic legalism said that the Jewish Law would help the believers become more spiritual. If they were circumcised, and if they watched their diets and observed the holy days, then they would become part of the 'spiritual elite' in the church." *W. Wiersbe*

III. (vs. 11-13) Christian circumcision is spiritual in nature.

A. (vs. 11) We are circumcised in Christ.

1. "the removal of the body of the flesh..."

NOTE: Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5 The power of the old sinful nature has been broken as we yield to Christ and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

B. (vs. 12) Illustrated by water baptism.

1. Baptism to the believer is an outward picture of an inward reality.
2. It pictures "our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ."

C. (vs. 12, 13) Orchestrated by God.

1. Identified with Christ.

NOTE: Baptism in a figurative sense refers to believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

2. Accomplished through the power of God.

NOTE: Eph. 1:18-20

3. When we were dead spiritually, God made us alive in Christ!

NOTE: Eph. 2:1, 5-10

