

# *Christ Over All*

## *A study in Colossians*

Dead People Live in a Living King  
Colossians 2:13-15  
June 30, 2024

**MAIN POINT:** Adam's transgression brought death to all mankind; but Christ's life, death, and resurrection brings the dead to life, secures full forgiveness of sins for his people, and mocks the rulers and authorities of this age.

### I. IN ADAM: OF SIN AND GUILT AND DEATH

- Paul introduces our state in v. 13 as “dead” in our “trespasses” and “uncircumcision of [our] flesh,” and he reminds us of our debt under the law in v. 14 (cf. Eph. 2:1-16).
  - Paul links the deadness that has spread over and within all of mankind– this kind of uncircumcision of the flesh – to Adam in Romans 5:12-17.
    - We are dead because of the trespass of Adam, and pursue quite willingly our own trespasses that lead to death... the body follows the head (i.e., in our sinful state, we follow Adam).
  - If the law is viewed as a ladder that leads to life, its demand is obedience; but death is its wager for disobedience (cf. Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
    - In Adam, hand-written letters detailing our condemnation and the sentence of death stand over us, ready to crush us as enemies.

### II. IN CHRIST: OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FORGIVENESS AND LIFE

- Our state in Adam is grim indeed. What, therefore, has God done in Christ to save his people?
  - Though in Adam we are dead in the uncircumcision of our flesh, God has made us alive together with Christ, circumcising our hearts with a circumcision made without hands (vv. 11, 13).
  - Though by nature Adam is our head and his trespass is our trespass, we are supernaturally united to Christ as our head and his righteousness is our righteousness (cf. Rom. 5:15-17; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:21).

- Though in Adam we are all disobedient law breakers, in Christ and through his cross God has forgiven our disobedience and wiped clean the legal ledger against us (v. 14).
- Though in Adam we are under the sway of the rulers and authorities, God in Christ disarmed those powers, put them to open shame, and now parades them around as captives awaiting destruction (v. 15).

#### Suggested Reading:

*40 Questions About Salvation* by Matthew Barrett  
*The Atonement: An Introduction* by Jeremy Treat

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please Read Colossians 2:13-15

1. What does Paul mean when he references our “trespasses” and the “uncircumcision of our flesh” in v. 13? How is this linked to our death in the same verse?
2. In Adam and apart from Christ, when you consider the record of sins that stand against humanity, with all of its legal demands, what hope is there? Why is legal obedience to the law not an option for those in Adam?
3. In light of the plight of humanity in vv. 13-14, what has Christ done for Adam's race (consider the whole work of Christ: his life, his death, and his resurrection)?
4. If Christ triumphed victoriously over the rulers and authorities in his work at the cross (v. 15), what does that mean for Christ's people now? What about in the age to come?