

# SOLD OUT

## LESSON 5 | FREEDOM FROM SIN

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### **Colossians 2:6-15 NIV**

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

### **Big Idea**

Chapter 2, verses 6 and 7 sum up the entire message of this letter. Paul started in chapter 1 with significant and powerful revelation about the nature of Jesus. In this passage (2:6-15), he unifies that high Christology (knowledge about Christ), with how this roots, builds, strengthens, and flows out into the lives of those who love and trust the Son of God (v.7). He is God’s Image (1:15). He is God’s Wisdom (2:3). He is God’s Mystery (2:2). The believers have trusted in Him. And Paul now drives home the point that they should trust in nothing else. There cannot be any other competitors to their trust and devotion. Even the attempt to achieve closer union with God by anything other than Jesus, while it seems a good idea, will ruin what began when they first trusted in Christ.

Paul uses the imagery of circumcision to make the point that God will continue to work in them by their faith in Christ. Circumcision represents a good and faithful relationship with God. Twice in this passage Paul references circumcision. The latter, uncircumcision of the flesh (v. 13), echoes Genesis 17, the covenant with Abraham. The first, in verse 11, echoes Deuteronomy 30:6, God circumcising the heart of the people in their restoration. While other Old Testament verses may make reference to the circumcising of the heart, only in Deuteronomy 30:6 is it God who does the circumcision.

And now, Paul writes, the very Creator of life has fulfilled His promise and made a people freed from the degradations and compulsions of sin by Jesus Christ. They must trust in nothing else. How that works out in conduct and witness Paul will unpack in fuller detail in the next passages. But for now, the exhortation is clear: all other ways are dead ends (in this life and literally in the next). More than that, they are wrong and unnecessary. Those who belong to Christ have been given fullness in Christ. We look to the day when God will completely fill people and the entire creation, with His love, cleansing and richness. And, in fact, He has already begun to put this plan into effect through Christ and by His Spirit. That is what the Church has in Christ. We will find it nowhere else.



## The Conversation

1. There are many ways that promise fuller security in life (political parties, wealth, ethnic identity etc.). These all have the potential to become rivals to Christ. The solution is to realize your fullness in Him. What are ways that help you realize how He is all that you need?
2. What thoughts and feelings fill you as you think about how God has circumcised your heart and transformed you?
3. Find a worship song centered only on Jesus Christ, not you or what you get from Him, but one that declares His greatness. Listen and sing to it. What does the Spirit say to you as you exalt Jesus?
4. Think about your friends and family who do not have Christ as their life-giver. Pray for them using the language of verses 2:6-15. Pray these words into their lives, calling upon God to reach them.

## The Takeaway

Pick a verse or verses from 2:6-15 that struck you as you read it. Write the verse(s) on a notecard or small paper. Put it on your bathroom mirror and every day this week when you see it, recite it out loud.

