

# The Circumcised Heart

## Colossians 2:11,12

01/25/15  
by Bob DeWaay

### The Circumcised Heart

Colossians 2:11, 12

*by Bob DeWaay*  
Gospel of Grace Fellowship

January 25, 2015

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### A Circumcision Made Without Hands

**Colossians 2:11a (ESV)**  
In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made **without hands**

- Colossians 2:10a = “you have been filled in Him”
- “In Whom” begins this verse and describes being complete in Christ
- “without hands” denotes a **spiritual circumcision**, that of the heart
- This is taught in Romans 2:28, 29

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### The Circumcision of Christ

**Colossians 2:11b (ESV)**  
by putting off the body of the flesh, **by the circumcision of Christ**

- This denotes the “putting off of” that which is ruled by our fallen sinfulness (Romans 6:6)
- Christ is the One who does the circumcision of the heart (possessive genitive)
- The circumcision is done by Christ as He separates believers from the world of sin and death

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### Buried and Raised With Christ by Faith

#### Colossians 2:12 (ESV)

having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Only the dead are buried!
- Buried and raised are divine passives (i.e., by God)
- In baptism we by faith spiritually participate in Christ's death, burial and resurrection

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### Three Divine Passives

- "Circumcised"
- "Buried together"
- "Raised together"

This shows the solidarity of believers with Christ.

We do not need what the false teachers offer.

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### Implications and Applications

- The circumcision of the heart was promised in the OT and fulfilled in Christ
- We need to take seriously the implications of our baptism
- There is no justification for infant baptism in this passage
- Beware false assurance from infant baptism

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### The Promise of the Circumcised Heart

#### Deuteronomy 30:6 (NASB)

Moreover **the Lord your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **so that you may live.**

- This is a description of regeneration
- Ezekiel 36:26, 27
- Philippians 3:3

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### Important Implications of Baptism

#### Romans 6:3-4 (NASB)

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death**? Therefore we have been **buried** with Him through baptism into death, so that as **Christ was raised** from the dead through the glory of the Father, so **we too** might walk in newness of life.

- Baptism is a physical act with spiritual implications
- Baptism is by immersion

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### Colossians 2:11, 12

#### Do Not Teach or Imply Infant Baptism

- Infant baptism could not have applied to anyone in Colossae reading Paul's letter
- Circumcision is spiritual (of the heart) and does not denote infant baptism which would be physical
- Infant baptism does not replace physical circumcision as a sign of entrance into the covenant
- One must be born again to enter the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) Baptized infants are not thereby regenerate

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### Avoid False Assurance

#### **1Corinthians 10:1, 2, 5 (NASB)**

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; . . . nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

- Idolaters are lost whether baptized or not
- We are only raised to newness of life by faith in God's powerful working

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