

# “FROM DEATH TO LIFE AND TOTAL FORGIVENESS”

## COLOSSIANS 2:13-15

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### INTRODUCTION

Are you in debt, or have you ever been in debt? Debt can be painful and even life controlling and destroying.

Many a believer has come into bondage to a suffocating debt that has mastered his life, his marriage, his family, and even his spiritual walk with God. Our nation has become strapped with a multi trillion dollar debt that seems overwhelming and impossible to pay—and getting worse all the time!

What if I told you that every human being has a debt so large and overwhelming that he can never pay it? A debt so massive and so threatening that it has ruined his current life and will condemn him to an eternal hell? Such is the teaching of these verses. You as a debtor—a sinner in condition, in action, in word, in attitude—can never make your payment; you are condemned, lost, hopeless—in fact, you are **DEAD**.

Yet, God through the work of His Son Jesus Christ offers you **LIFE, FORGIVENESS, CANCELLATION OF YOUR MASSIVE DEBT**. Which will you choose? To remain in your debt, lost, hopeless, condemned? Or to accept His gift of Life?

### **GOD HAS CANCELLED YOUR DEBT IN CHRIST—WHY DO YOU STILL CARRY IT, OR LIVE AS THOUGH YOU STILL HAVE IT?**

- I. **CONDITION OF ONE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST (13-14)**
  - A. **Dead (13)**
    1. In transgressions—the state and instrument of death
    2. In the “uncircumcision of your flesh”—impure carnal disposition motivating the life
      - a. Alludes to the condition of Gentiles outside the divine covenant
      - b. In light of v. 11 speaks of the spiritual state represented by the physical state.
  - B. **Certificate of debt—“handwriting”/IOU/declaration of condemnation**
    1. Consisting in and manifesting itself through ordinances
    2. State of hostility (“against us”) and actively hostile to us (“contrary to us”).
      - The double emphasis is extremely emphatic
    3. The Mosaic Law in its ordinances
      - Not in itself, but as condemning and inflicting penalty upon the one who agreed to pay but cannot pay the debt.
      - The claim of condemnation exhibited by the moral law, and traced in the blood and read by the fires of the Levitical law.
      - Not so much the “law with the authority of legislation, as the law with its power of punishment.”
      - “The law in itself is not, and cannot be contrary to men, but it has become so because they have failed to obey it.”

- II. CHANGE IN CONDITION OF ONE IN CHRIST (13-14)
  - A. Made Alive
    - 1. Together with Him.
    - 2. Share in Christ's new life after resurrection (cf. v. 12)
  - B. Having been forgiven—"to give or grant freely"—**by grace!**
    - 1. **All** our transgressions—none excluded
    - 2. The same transgressions which made us dead!
    - 3. This is the subjective application to the believer of the objective blotting out mentioned next.
  - C. Blotting out/cancelling out/wiping off the Certificate of debt—our basis of condemnation.
  - D. Having been removed "out of the way"—**permanently**, never to be held against us again.
  - E. The certificate of debt has been **nailed to the cross.**
    - 1. The very instrument of *defeat* of Christ by Satan becomes the instrument of the Defeat of Satan!
    - 2. Christ on the cross took the condemnation, paid the penalty of debt, and released the captives who were in bondage to the debt.
      - "My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
      - My sin, not in part but the whole,
      - Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
      - Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"
- III. CHANGE IN THE CONDITION OF THE "RULERS AND AUTHORITIES (15)
  - A. "Thrown off/disarmed"—totally defeated!
  - B. Held up to public display—boldly!
  - C. Led in triumphal procession as defeated captives
  - D. These foes are no longer to be feared or dreaded or submitted to; they are vanquished.
  - E. No longer must one accept their condemnation, nor the bondage of artificial requirements (see vv. 16ff).

#### CONCLUSION

Why will you continue in debt? Why will you remain in death?

God in Christ has cancelled out the debt and has permanently taken it out of the way—having nailed it to the cross!

Come to Christ now and find **complete forgiveness and life!**

And, if you are a forgiven Christian, live in triumph and joy! Satan is a defeated foe.

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