

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship  
Sunday, October 11, 2020, Sermon by Dr. Greg Corbin, Senior Pastor  
"The Greatest Gifts Christ Has Given Us" –Colossians 2:11-23

*"And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him."  
Colossians 2:13-15 Christian Standard Bible*

Among my most treasured gifts is a 1984 Sigma Martin guitar that my parents gave me not long before I graduated from high school. It's been a wonderful instrument and a friend who's traveled with me through multiple stages of ministry and life. Each step along the way, the guitar's connection to me has increased with the added memories of the people, places, and special moments associated with it. It's special because my parents gave it to me. It's ever more special because in various ways it has actually changed my life and at times served as an anchor to keep me from changes that I didn't need to make. On more than one occasion, its mellow mahogany tone has helped me to remember and experience God's presence and peace at the end of a difficult day, bringing me back to the foundation of His grace. As prized as the guitar is to me, God's grace is a gift ever more special and infinitely more valuable. God is a father who genuinely knows how to give good gifts to His children. Through the sacrifice and victory accomplished by His Son on the cross, He has given us the greatest gifts of all: forgiveness and new life. In Colossians 2:11-23, particularly verses 13-15, Paul relates with words of celebration ***the Greatest Gifts Christ Has Given Us.***

***Christ has given us SPIRITUAL LIFE (vs.13).*** On our own, the Bible describes our spiritual condition in starkly definitive terms: we are dead. Because of our sin, we are cut off from a right relationship with God, the source of life, and doomed for the eternal condemnation of His wrath. Even worse, we are helpless to change our condition. No matter how hard we might work or how good or religious we might strive to be, God's diagnosis of "dead" stands over us, and we are powerless to change it. Apart from our efforts, however, we are "made alive" in Christ by grace through faith. In the third chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to this as being "born again." Another term used to describe being made alive with Christ is *regeneration*.

***Christ has forgiven ALL of OUR SIN (vs. 13).*** Apart from Christ, we are not only "dead" but guilty and unforgiven. Our sins mark our lives, weigh us down, and justifiably warrant God's verdict of guilty to a degree that no amount of penitent good deeds can ever make amends. But by virtue of the new life we have in Christ, God has once and for all declared us to be righteous in Christ. Because of this verdict, all our sins (past, present, and future) are forever forgiven. Another term for this verdict is *justification*. Forgiveness is a precious gift lavished upon us by God's grace as a result of our justification in Christ.

***Christ has taken away the RECORD of my sin (vs. 14).*** The imagery in verse fourteen is dramatic. When a person was crucified in the ancient world, his crimes were nailed above him on the cross which was the instrument of his death, displaying the crimes for which he was being executed. With the words of verse fourteen, Paul declares that Christ, though innocent, died for our sins. He died in our place, taking upon himself the penalty we deserved. Another term for this is *substitutionary Atonement*. In his crucifixion, Christ died in our place for our sins, forever canceling the penalty we rightly deserved.

***Christ has won the final VICTORY over the FORCES OF DARKNESS (vs. 15).*** In the glory of His *resurrection*, Christ has displayed the victory He has won for us not only over sin and death but also over all of the spiritual forces of Satan that would accuse us, deceive us, and seek to hold us in bondage. Jesus' victory is complete and unequivocally uncontested. He has accomplished everything necessary to bring us salvation. The victory is won! As we wait for His return, we now live with confidence in the light of Christ's triumph.

**To reflect further about the greatest gifts Christ has given us read John 3, Ephesians 1-2, Romans 3-5 & 8, Psalm 103, and 2 Peter 1.**

**Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application**

-Have you received Christ's greatest gifts through repentance and faith?

-How does the knowledge of those gifts give you confidence for daily life?

-Many believers still carry a burden (feeling) of guilt despite knowing they are forgiven in Christ. This is an unfortunate and unnecessary load to bear. If this describes you, please know that as a believer with new life in Christ, you are in fact forgiven. Lay down your burden with Jesus today. He has already carried it for you and left it at the cross.

-The greatest gifts of Christ are too rich and exciting to keep to ourselves. With whom will you share them this week?

You're in My Prayers,

*Stacey*