

Don't Be Taken Captive! (Pt. 3)

Colossians 2:11–12

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Pastor Wes – October 12, 2025

Main Idea: Don't Be Taken Captive by deceptive and enslaving false teaching.

Outline: Paul gives us two means to safeguard us from being taken captive:

- I. By Spotting Error (v. 8)
- II. By Knowing Truth (vv. 9–15)
 - A. Jesus is God in the Flesh (v. 9)
 - B. Jesus is the Sufficient Savior (v. 10a)
 - C. Jesus is Lord over All (v. 10b)
 - D. Jesus Effects a Spiritual Transformation (vv. 11–12)
 - i. You were Circumcised
 - ii. You were Buried
 - iii. You were Raised

1. The nation Israel put their trust in the physical act of circumcision to save them (Cf. Rom 2:25–29; Phil 3:1–3). What are some external rituals people put their trust in today?

2. In contrast to performing an external ritual, how is it that a person is saved? (cf. Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9–10)

3. What is the spiritual transformation that Paul is discussing in vv. 11–12? When does it occur? What are the three “acts” of this transformation given in the passage?



4. We can learn much from the tense of the verbs Paul uses in vv. 11–12. Why is it important that believers know this spiritual transformation is a past tense reality? What are the implications of this for our present life?
5. Not only does he use past tense verbs, they're also all passives. Who, then, is the author of this spiritual transformation? Why is that important to comprehend? What dangers arise when man becomes responsible for his own spiritual transformation?
6. Explain in your own words what it means that “the body of flesh has been removed” in spiritual circumcision (cf. Romans 6:6–7). What are the implications of this for the believer's life?
7. Why does Scripture make it a point to say we have been buried with Christ?
8. Which resurrection is Paul describing in v. 12? What are the traits of a new, resurrected believer? How does this aid you in the fight against sin?
9. Is there one sin struggle in your life that the truths of Colossians 2:11–12 can help you in?

