

## Complete, Full Salvation Colossians 2:11-12

INTRO: There are many illustrations in the Word of God of full salvation. When I speak of full or complete salvation, I mean salvation that is all of grace without anything added to it. In Colossians 2:11-12, we have a classic example of salvation without works, salvation without hands.

To set the stage for our present study, we need to point out that the false teachers were demanding that Gentile Christians submit to circumcision. The false teachers saw circumcision as the badge of God's chosen people.

Throughout the history of Israel there had been two views of circumcision.

1. There was the view that circumcision in itself was enough to put a sinful man right with God. To those who held this view, it really didn't matter whether an Israelite was a good man or a bad man: the only thing that mattered was that the man was an Israelite and that he had been circumcised.
  - a. This view said that circumcision alone was enough to save since it granted membership in the covenant nation.
  - b. This view is wrong according to scripture. Romans 9:6 says: "For they are not all Israel which are of Israel" (See also Rm 2:25, 28).
2. The second view insisted that circumcision was only an outward mark, an outward demonstration that all men are born sinful and need cleansing (Rm 3:10, 23).
  - a. The cutting away of the male foreskin graphically demonstrated that man needed cleansing at the very deepest level of his being.
    - 1- No other part of the human anatomy demonstrates the depth of man's sin as does this part.
    - 2- It is this part of man that produces life— and all that man produces is sinful. In Psalm 51:5: "Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." David had at conception an sinful nature!
  - b. This view is the Bible view.

circumcision, a seal of righteousness of the faith which he had yet being

uncircumcised: the he might be the father of all them that believe; though they be not circumcised; “that righteousness might be imputed unto them also.” Abraham was not circumcised until years after, “he believed in the Lord; and he [God] counted it to him for righteousness.”

B. “Putting off the body of the sins of the flesh.”

1. Believers are new creatures in Christ (II Cor 5:17).
2. Believers are cleansed: sin is to no longer dominate our lives.
  - a. At salvation, “our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rm 6:6). (Note also Rm 6:11-14, 18).
  - b. Philippians 3:3 says that believers are the true circumcision and have not confidence in the flesh.
3. Yes, Christians still sin, but sin does not dominate, for we have been freed from sin’s dominance. At salvation, our hearts, lips, and ears are circumcised. True circumcision means that a spiritual operation has taken place that has changed your life.

## II. VS 12, BURIED IN BAPTISM

A. “Buried with him in baptism.”

1. Baptism pictures the believer’s identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Rm 6:3-4).
  - a. It should be noted that baptism in Paul’s day was adult baptism and total immersion.
  - b. There was no infant baptism in Paul’s day.
  - c. The word baptize is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo* meaning “to immerse, submerge.”
    - 1- “Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan (Jn 1:26).
    - 2- In Mark 1:9-10, we see Jesus baptized (immersed) by John in Jordan. Verse 9 says that Jesus “was baptized by John IN Jordan.” In verse 10, the scripture says of Jesus, “and straightway coming up out of the water.”
    - 3- In Acts 8:39, we find that Philip and the Eunuch, “both went down in to the water.”
  - d. The Greek scholars agree that the word baptize means to dip, to immerse: “J. H. Thayer– ‘Baptizo,

to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge.”  
 “Bass—*baptizo*, to dip, to immerse, to wash in water.”  
 “Hendricus— *Baptizo*, to merge, to immerse, also to dip.’ “Stephanus— *Baptizo*, to merge, to immerse, also to dip.’ “W. Pope— *Baptizo*, to dip in, to dip under.’ “Wahl— *Clavis*, to dip, to dip repeatedly, to wash.’ “E. W. Bullinger— *Baptizo*, to immerse for a religious purpose.’ “Cremer— *Baptizo*, to immerse, to submerge.’ “J. W. Fradensdorf— *Baptine*, to immerse, to dip.’ “Prof. E. A. Sophocles, a native Greek— *Baptizo*, to dip, to immerse, to sink.’ “Suicer— *Baptizo*, to immerse, to dip.’ “Scapla— *Baptizo*, to merge, to immerse.’ “Stokius— *Baptizo*, by the force of the work, indicates the idea of dipping or immersion; properly speaking, it is dipping or immersion in water.’ “Robinson— *Baptizo*, to dip in, to sink, to immerse.’ “Greenfield— *Baptizo*, to immerse, to immerge, to sink.’ “Groves— *Baptizo*, to dip, to immerse, to plunge.’ “Green— *Baptizo*, to dip to immerse.”

2. As the waters close over a man’s head, it is as though he has died and is buried. As he rises from the water, it is as if he has risen to new life. This pictures the Gospel and pictures the believer’s position in Christ.

B. “Through the faith of the operation of God.”

1. It is the power of God that changed the believer, not the water. Warren Wiersbe says of the operation of God: “It was the power of God that changed us, not the power of the water. The Spirit of God identified us with Jesus Christ, and we were buried with Him, raised with Him, and made alive with Him!”
2. “Operation” is the Greek word *energia*. It is used only of superhuman power, the effectual working of God, “not of hands.” Christ did all that was needed for our salvation. God through the Holy Spirit makes real what Christ has done. It is God who opens the heart, who operates, who does open heart surgery.

C. “Who raised him [Christ] from the dead.”

1. The same power that raised Christ from the dead has raised believers from spiritual death to be seated in

- heavenly places (Eph 1:19-20; 2:5-6).
2. Those that believe the Gospel, or that God raised Christ from the dead, are raised and will be raised (Rm 10:9).
  3. Baptism is for believers only:
    - a. Acts 8:37 says concerning being baptized: "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest."
    - b. Acts 16:30-33.

CONCLUSION: Salvation is complete in Him (2:10).