

## 50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

### #36: “Circumcised in Christ”

---

On this positional truth let's note the context,

**Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> **In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,**

After the apostle Paul warns Christians about being captured through cosmic philosophy, he touches on two positional truths: “you have been brought to fullness,” and “you were circumcised.” This cosmic philosophy is described in three ways 1) it is according to the tradition of men, 2) it depends upon the basic principles of the kosmos, and 3) it is not according to Christ. Each age has what is called a zeitgeist, a spirit of the age in which people are mentally captured. There was a zeitgeist in the Colossian era, and there is a zeitgeist in our age as well. In Christianity today the zeitgeist is anti-intellectualism. It is according to the tradition of man (e.g., David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Soren Kierkegaard), it depends upon the basic principles of the kosmos (superstitious powers, “power” without understanding), and it is not according to Christ (the anti-intellectual standards of today run contrary to Christ’s command to love the Lord with all of one’s *mind*). In our anti-intellectual zeitgeist, Christians are totally unaware of how deeply the principles of false philosophy influence and guide their lives. For example, even though one of the titles of their Lord is *Logos* [logic, rationality], they have an inherent distaste for logic that they can’t seem to shake—a distaste that comes from the montage of philosophies that they have picked up unwittingly. It is unfortunate that such believers will not be able to grow mentally in those grandest of metaphysical truths: e.g., *Esse*, act of Being. Instead of being convicted, the often anti-intellectual retort is, “But that is OK, because He loves me.” OK? No one is questioning the Lord’s unconditional love. How can it be OK to have an ambiguous, sense-dependent, view of God? How can it be OK to have a shallow view of God? How can it be OK to have false concepts of God? How can it be OK to have false views of truth? How can it be OK to be captured by the unchristian zeitgeist? How can it be OK to reject Christ’s stated number one command: to love the Lord with all of one’s *mind*? How can it be OK for God not to be the All, the Ultimate, the Beyond, the Transcendent? If God is not the All to a believer, then the believer does not *understand* God or simply does not care or really believe that *God* is worth the effort. God help us!

Now to positional truth thirty-six: “circumcised in Christ” (also see Philip. 3:3; Rom. 2:29). Obviously, this is a spiritual circumcision. The verb is an aorist passive indicative which means that the believer received circumcision at the point of salvation. The Christian’s “circumcision” is defined as “the putting off” of the body of the flesh. The Greek word for “putting off,” a double compound, denotes both stripping off and casting away. We are informed that this circumcision was the putting off of the body of flesh. This refers to the old-sin-human-good-evil nature (OSHGEN). At the point of salvation the power of the OSHGEN was positionally broken. We were freed from the *inherent* power of the OSHGEN. The circumcision of the believer is spiritual, not physical, and relates not to an external organ but to one’s inner being. Positionally, the whole carnal nature has been cut away. (By the way, the less mental development of the believer in abstract thinking, the more lust and temptation he and she will suffer. God and doctrine require high abstract thinking. To be limited to the sensible/empirical, is not only to be limited but to be filled with error—God cannot be accessed through the sensible; physical illustrations or images of God always limit and distort.) The believer is now free to live by God the Holy Spirit unto the Lord. No believer has to live under the domination of the OSHGEN. We have been freed from that ball and chain. This freedom is only realized through growth in Truth—not coherent “truth,” not pragmatic “truth,” not existential “truth,” not functional “truth,” and not “fundo-truth.” Only Truth as such, Correspondence Truth, the Truth of the Word of God—what is Real! Only true Truth that gives true freedom (John 8:32). Let’s put aside all of the pseudo views of truth and Christianity, let us and move forward in Truth for the glory of God! He is the All that is worth all!

An *ens* (substance) that has been given *esse* by *Esse*,

Pastor Don