

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

**Get Rid of Your Guilt  
A Study of Colossians 2:13-14**

**[www.hillcrest.church](http://www.hillcrest.church)**

**The Before and the After (In/By/With):**

Have you ever seen those “before and after” ads for hair replacement plugs, or diet pills, or exercise machines? What do they all have in common? (Begin your answers with the words “In,” “By,” and “With.”)

How would you describe the “before and after” of Christ for a Christian?

**Circle “in Christ, in Him, by Christ, with Him, and with Christ” in Col. 2:9-15 below:**

**Colossians 2:9-15.**

For IN CHRIST all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness IN CHRIST, who is the head over every power and authority. IN HIM you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done BY CHRIST, having been buried WITH HIM in baptism and raised WITH HIM through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive WITH CHRIST. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**Write the underlined words and phrases in the passage to fill out the “before and after Christ” chart below:**

BEFORE CHRIST	AFTER CHRIST

## Going Deeper

In 1898, A.T. Pierson wrote the little book *In Christ Jesus*: an exposition of all the places *in Christ, through Christ, with Christ, into him* and so on shows up in Scripture. Pierson wrote:

“Such repetition and variety must have some intense meaning. When, in the Word of God, a phrase like this occurs so often, and with such manifold applications, it cannot be a matter of accident; there is a deep design. God's Spirit is bringing a truth of the highest importance before us, repeating for the sake of emphasis, compelling even the careless reader to give heed as to some vital teaching.”

**Discuss the following ways being “In Christ” helps us break free from shame and regret and guilt.**

### Fullness Leaves No Room

- Have you ever said, “I couldn’t eat another bite”? Explain that feeling:
- What kinds of things (other than a relationship with Christ) do people search for in life to “fill” their lives with meaning?
- Why do these things fail to satisfy our long term hunger?
- What does it mean to be “given fullness in Christ”?

### Baptism: Connected To Christ

- Of what is baptism a picture or symbol?
- How does “dying with Christ, being buried with Him, and being raised from the dead to walk in a new way of life” wash away guilt, regret, and failure?

**NOTE:** Through the symbol of baptism, we recognize how our life is connected to Jesus’ life:

- He overcame temptation so in Him we too can overcome temptation.
- He lived a life of ministry, so through Him we too can live a life of ministry.
- He had no guilt, shame, or regret, so we too can live free of those things.
- He conquered death, so we too will live forever.

## **Wanted: Dead or Alive!**

*Col 2:13-14: When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive WITH CHRIST. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.*

- What stark comparison does Col 2:13-14 use to illustrate life before and after a relationship with Jesus?
- What sins are forgiven when a person is “made alive” with Christ?
- How did Christ “cancel” any penalty of sin? What about the power of sin?

## **My Takeaway**

- What happens to feelings of guilt, failure, or regret when we understand fully the meaning of Christ in us?
- How can reflecting on our baptism continue to remove guilt?
- Why are people not really alive until they are “in Christ”?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests