



We spent a lot of time in our last lesson in *The Letter to the Hebrews* learning about the God of peace who has established an eternal covenant made available by the blood of Jesus (Heb 13:20-21). Remember especially what we learned in Hebrews 9:11-14:

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered _____ for _____ into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his _____ blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

The next big question is **"How?"** Jesus lived a very long time ago. We live on the other side of the planet. If this eternal covenant with the God of peace is available for us to enjoy, how can we possibly come in contact with the blood of Christ? Romans 6:1-11 is extremely helpful in answering that question.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in _____ that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who _____ to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by _____ into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our _____ self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set _____ from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves _____ to sin and alive to _____ in Christ Jesus.

- ☀ How had the relationship of these people changed with their Creator, the same God whose glory they had all fallen short of (Rom 3:23) in the past?

- ☀ How did their steps of faith relate to what Christ Jesus has already accomplished?

- ☀ Why was the question and answer of 6:1-2 even necessary?

- ☀ “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (6:11). What does this mean? How does it relate to our overall study of covenants?

Colossians 2 connects even more covenant “dots” for us. Speaking of Christ...

In him also you were _____ with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been _____ with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, _____ made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Col 2:6-15)

- ☀ What purpose had circumcision previously played in the plan of the God of covenants?

- ☀ What is this “circumcision made without hands”? How can anyone experience it?

- ☀ Bottom line: what role does baptism play in a person’s covenant relationship with God?