

SERMON 9

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” Colossians 2:14.

First, we are to observe what is nailed to the cross, and in what day it was nailed. Secondly, how long it was to remain nailed. Thirdly, on which day the nail is to be removed.

What was nailed to the cross? The laws with which men said they were burdened, and could not observe – they not having the Spirit – caused them to repent and submit to sacrifices for the salvation of the soul – though the body perished, and these sacrifices and burdens were taken out of the way by being nailed to the cross.

“Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” Acts 15:10. They being without the Spirit. “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days” Colossians 2:16. “Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things” Genesis 9:3. Behold, I, Paul, say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing (Galatians 5:2).

Now, the reader is to understand that Paul meant that circumcision availed nothing to the unbeliever, but to the believer. *“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ” Galatians 6:12.*

“Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment” Acts 15:24. They wanting to draw them to keep the law without the gospel. Paul seeing all this darkly, through a glass, and the fullness of the Gentiles not being come, recommends them that, if any man be called in uncircumcision, let him not be circumcised (1st Corinthians 7:18). For he saw it availed nothing

until the fullness of the Gentiles, when Israel should return and have the fullness of the Spirit to keep the whole of the law in them.

It is evident by this that the Lord was fulfilling that passage of Scripture. *“I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people”* Deuteronomy 32:21. Instead of giving them the kingdom, which is the life of their bodies by making them immortal, which is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment (Luke 12:23), that they should be left to be grafted in by baptism with the Gentiles, to continue in the eating of bread and drinking of wine, as token of their faith in the atonement made by the death of Jesus, for the salvation of their souls – that they might be justified by his resurrection, they being believers of the gospel without the law, until the sixth thousand years, of which the six days in the creation were figurative, each day standing figurative of a thousand years.

Now Paul advised the people not to abuse the grace that God had bestowed upon them – that they should have the salvation of their souls without those things which were nailed to the cross, being the law.

And Paul, in other parts, testifies of circumcision, saying: *“What advantage then hath the Jew? Or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God”* Romans 3:1,2.

The question is, what is the oracle of God? The evangelist, John, declares that the oracle of God was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we are witnesses of it (John 1:14). So it is evident that the oracle of God is the light of life, which is Christ, that is to dwell with the Son of man in the temple, which is his body, and is as the magnet; for whom it toucheth it quickeneth, to do the will of God.

So though the Hebrews had the promise of the life of their bodies, through the keeping of the law, yet by breaking any part of it they obtained not the fulfillment of that promise: and when the Spirit of God abode on the seed of the woman they refused him.

The former circumcision, before Christ, stood typical of the latter circumcision, when He should send the fullness of his Spirit to gather together the house of Israel from amongst the Gentiles – whose bodies will receive eternal life, by the Spirit keeping the

whole of the law in them. *“And ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel”* Isaiah 27:12. *“Thus saith the Lord God; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel”* Ezekiel 44:9. For circumcision of the flesh is one part of the law given to Israel, which it becometh them to keep as a testimony of the circumcision of the heart, like as Jesus was baptized of John in Jordan, saying, *“Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness”* Matthew 3:15.

But Peter was called to be a minister to the circumcision of the flesh – that is to the Jews – typical of the ingathering of the house of Israel, according to the words, *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people”* Isaiah 11:11.

The uncircumcised Gentiles, who keeps not the gospel, will not have a right to the full promises of God, which is the redemption of the body, any more than the circumcised Hebrew had, who kept not the law; but if he dwell in the Spirit it will not vaunt itself, but will circumcise the foreskin of the heart, and not make void the words of the text. *“Cometh this blessedness then, upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also (the Jew and the Gentile each receiving their own portion)? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? When he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision”* Romans 4:9,10. Which is for the salvation of the soul.

And these are the things which they were to observe and do: *“For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if you keep yourselves, ye shall do well”* Acts 15:28,29. *“But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”* Hebrews 10:39.

So it is evident that Paul meant not the life of the body, but the salvation of the soul. *“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”*

Romans 4:5. Until the fullness of times, when they should receive the Spirit to dwell in.

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt” Romans 4:4. His natural body then being due to him.

It might be asked in what day it was nailed? The fifth day, or fifth thousand years, when Jesus was crucified. But on which day is the nail to be removed? In the sixth day, or six thousand years.

“In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the Lord hath spoken it” Isaiah 22:25. In the eleventh hour of the sixth thousand year.

For at that time the Spirit will descend and take away the enmity (Ephesians 2:15,16), that is in the flesh against the commands of God, which Paul testified of when he exclaimed, *“I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members”* Romans 7:23.

“For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together” Matthew 24:28. Being the Spirit which is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3), which the Scriptures say is, *“With you and shall be in you”* John 14:17. For *“He that hath the bride is the bridegroom”* John 3:29. Which is the life of the bride, the time being come for God to give it to those who are found of Israel – they being hidden from the former Israel, who kept not the law; and is now hidden from the Gentile who keepeth not the gospel – in which way and manner it will be given, but those who receive it need no interpreter.

“So when even was come, the Lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny” Matthew 20:8,9. Which is the Jew under the law, or the Gentile under the gospel without the law; but they that keep both receive the two pence, which is the redemption of soul and body (Luke 10:35). They being outcasts from the Jew and Gentile churches. *“And will give him a*

white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” Revelation 2:17.

“And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, be thou also over five cities” Luke 19:15-19.

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” 2nd Timothy 2:15. Now the reader must divide those parts of the Scriptures which speak of the incorruptible body from those which speak of the natural, immortal body. For now the fullness of time is come for his ambassadors to go forth as sheep among wolves (Matthew 10:16), declaring the everlasting gospel for the establishment of his kingdom; for *“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* Matthew 24:14.*

“The Law and the Prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it” Luke 16:16. Those that are of Israel press into the Spirit.

The law is the rock of new Jerusalem, and Christ laid the foundation stone, which was the chief corner, being the body of the woman’s seed, Jesus. And the work that Christ did by him is the pattern to all men, that whosoever believes in him should build upon that rock, that when the floods and tempests of the wicked one should arise, they should not be able to throw down the building. *“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder”* Matthew 21:44. The natural body.