

December 1, 2019
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Col. 2:13-14

“Celebrate Communion”

¹³ And when you were dead in *(by reason of)* your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col. 2:13-14 – NASB95)

1. Our Problem / Need (13a)

2. God’s Solution / Provision (13b-14)

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. What is the first thing that usually comes to your mind when you think of partaking of **communion** at church? Why? What is the point of communion? Why do we still do it?
2. What does the Bible mean when it says we are *dead*? How can it say that living people are dead? Were we born that way? What Scriptures come to mind that help you understand and explain this?
3. What does the word *transgression* mean? What are some synonyms? Against what or whom did we transgress? (See Prov. 5:21; Ps. 90:8; Mt. 12:36; 1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 20:11-15) If everyone does it, why is this a problem? What specifically is it about God that makes this a problem?
4. What does Paul mean by *the uncircumcision of your flesh*? Is he referring to physical or spiritual circumcision? Is it possible to be physically circumcised but not spiritually circumcised?
5. What is a **dead** person's greatest need? Can a dead person make himself alive? What is a **transgressor's** greatest need? Can a transgressor take away his transgressions?
6. What are some ways we try to **minimize** our problem before God? What are some things people think or say to **rationalize** away their debt of sin? What is it about God that doesn't allow this problem to simply go away? Why can't He just be a "nice Grandpa in the sky" and ignore our transgressions?
7. Read Ephesians 1-2; Romans 6; John 3:5-6; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; 1 John 3:9. **List** the things that God provided for us through Jesus Christ? Who caused us to be born again (to be made alive)?
8. Read **Col. 2:13-14**. Notice the **three participles** that explain HOW God made us alive with Jesus (note: participles often end with "ing"). Why do you think Paul uses **three different illustrations** to drive home the point of what Jesus did for us? **Think about and discuss them in physical, tangible terms**. Put yourself in the place of the person on death row with no hope. What would it be like if you received a pardon; your unpayable debt was wiped away; an innocent person was executed in your place so you could go free? How would that impact your life? What would you think of the person who did this for you? What difference would it make as you approached each new day alive and free?
9. The only reason God could forgive us and give us life is because of what Jesus did for us. Because of the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus, God can be just while justifying us (Rom. 3:21-26). **List 10 or more practical ways** you can say and show God how grateful you are for all that He has done:
10. Now list the **names** of some people that are currently dead in their transgressions. Pray for them and then plan a time to go explain to them the three illustrations from Col. 2:13-14. Tell them about their problem / need and God's solution / provision.