

Colossians 2:11-15

Correctly interpreting the Word of
Truth



You were also circumcised in Him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of the Messiah.

Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

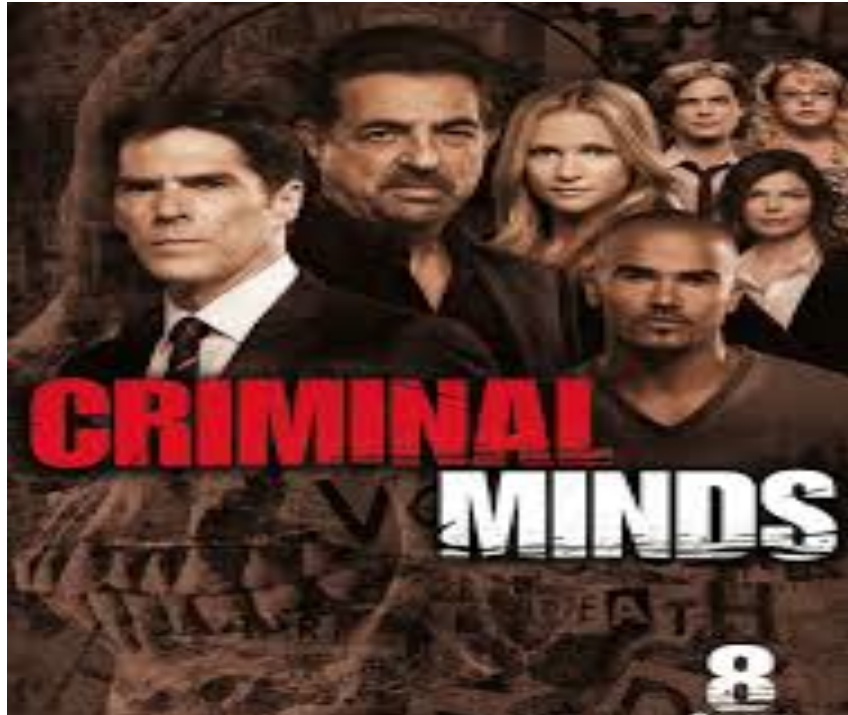
And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses.

He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him.



Repetition



- Crime scene investigators observe features repeated in different crimes
- Repeated features are often called a “signature” and link the crimes to the same person(s) and communicate an important message
- Repetition in biblical texts normally expresses emphasis and identifies a primary theme



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Believer's Union with Christ

- Believers are united with Jesus in such a way that they participate in His experiences (and he participates in theirs)
- The doctrine was key to Paul's doctrine of salvation and his Christian ethic
- Participation in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection means that the person we used to be is dead and gone and we have received new life of a radically different nature



Background Study

- Death and life in Judaism
- Use of physical death to portray spiritual condition in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 23)
- Parallels in Paul's writings
 - Galatians 2:19-20
 - Romans 6:1-14
 - Colossians 3:1-4, 12-14



Intertextuality

- Intertextuality is the study of references to earlier texts in later texts, especially references to the OT in the NT
- Deuteronomy 10:16
- Deuteronomy 30:6
- Jeremiah 4:4; 31:31-36
- Romans 2:28-29



Intratextuality

- Intratextuality refers to links within the same text, internal connections within the same biblical book
- Sometimes in Paul's writings "rulers" and "authorities" refer to earthly political officials (1 Cor. 2:6,8; Romans 13:3; Titus 3:1)
- Sometimes in Paul's writings these same terms refer to angelic or demonic spirits (Ephesians 3:10; 6:12)
- Most important reference is within Colossians itself: Colossians 1:16



The Amazing Transformation accomplished by Union with Christ

- Jesus has overcome the internal forces that prompt a person to sin
 - New life
 - Changed heart
- Jesus has overcome the external forces that prompt a person to sin



Importance of Background Studies

- Certificate of debt
- Cancelation of debt
- Erasure
- Practice of crucifixion

