

Colossians 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Analysis

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. Paul specifies the Gentile condition: "dead in your sins" (spiritually dead through guilt) "and the uncircumcision of your flesh" (outside covenant relationship). Physical uncircumcision symbolized spiritual alienation. The double barrier—sin and covenant exclusion—left Gentiles hopeless by human standards.

"Hath he quickened together with him" (synezōopoiēsen syn autō, συνεζωοποίησεν σὺν αὐτῷ) uses compound emphasizing corporate resurrection: made alive together with Christ. Divine power raising Christ simultaneously raised believers spiritually. "Having forgiven you all trespasses" (charisame nos panta ta paraptōmata, χαρισάμενος πάντα τὰ παραπτώματα) uses charizomai, related to charis (grace)—graciously forgiving every sin, none excepted.

Historical Context

Ephesians 2:1-5 parallels this passage, emphasizing humanity's universal spiritual death apart from Christ. Both passages stress regeneration as divine monergism—God acting alone to raise the dead, not cooperating with human effort. Dead people cannot cooperate in their resurrection; God must act unilaterally. This theological framework undergirds Reformation emphasis on salvation by grace alone through faith alone.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you remember your spiritual deadness before Christ, or have you minimized your pre-conversion lostness?
2. How does understanding salvation as resurrection from death affect your view of God's grace?
3. Have you truly accepted forgiveness for 'all trespasses,' or do some sins still haunt your conscience?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὑμᾶς νεκροὺς ὄντας ἐν τοῖς παραπτώματα καὶ τῇ
And you dead being in trespasses And G3588
G2532 G5209 G3498 G5607 G1722 G3900 G2532 G3588

ἀκροβυστίᾳ τῇσι σαρκὸς ὑμῶν συνεζωποίησεν σὺν
the uncircumcision G3588 flesh of your hath he quickened together with
G203 G4561 G5216 G4806 G4862

αὐτῷ χαρισάμενος ὑμᾶς πάντα τὰ παραπτώματα
him having forgiven you all G3588 trespasses
G846 G5483 G5213 G3956 G3900

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:1 (Sin): And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Romans 8:11 (Parallel theme): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Parallel theme): To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Hebrews 9:14 (Parallel theme): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2 Corinthians 3:6 (Parallel theme): Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Psalms 71:20 (Parallel theme): Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Ephesians 2:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

Romans 6:13 (Sin): Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Parallel theme): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 John 2:12 (Sin): I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.