* **…Because of Jesus’ FORGIVENESS On The Cross.**

***13****When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made youalive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,****14****having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.****15****And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* Colossians 2:6-15

[See Hebrews 9:22; Psalm 103:11-12]

**Key:** I will ask Jesus to CLEANSE and FORGIVE me of my sin.

* **…From RELIGIOUS Judgmentalism.**

**16**Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **17**These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. **18**Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. **19**They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. Colossians 2:16-19

**Key:** Don’t let others hinder your *connection* to Jesus.

* **…To Live GOD’S Way Vs The World’s Way.**

***20****Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:****21****“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?****22****These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.****23****Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.* Colossians 2:20-23

Key Q: Where Is My **RELATIONSHIP** With Jesus Right Now?

**My Freedom in Christ:**

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom* ***to indulge the flesh****; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*  Galatians 5:13

**LIFE ESSENTIALS: *I HAVE FREEDOME “IN CHRIST”…***

**Colossians 2:6-23**

**Date Written**: 60-62 AD **Roman Emperor:** Nero

**Prison Epistles:** Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians

**Gnosticism:** 2 False Premises:

* Gnostics assert that matter is inherently evil and spirit is good. They believed anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spirit realm only.
* Gnostics claim to possess a “higher truth” to achieve **salvation.** They saw themselves as a privileged class elevated above everybody else.

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* **…To CONTINUE Living “In Him”.**

***6****So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,****7****rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7

**Jesus**: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* John 10:10

***8****See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forcesof this world rather than on Christ.* Colossians 2:6-8

**KEY: My Responsibility:** Be On Guard!

* **… Because Jesus is 100% God and 100% MAN.**

***9****For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,****10****and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.****11****In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised byChrist,****12****having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.* Colossians 2:9-12

v9*. Bodily form.* Gnostics believed matter; i.e. bodily flesh was evil.

**Jesus: *30****I and the Father are one.”…****33****“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”*

 John 10:30-33 [See also Col 1:16-17)

**Key**: Jesus Gives Me New Life.

**POINSETTIAS**