





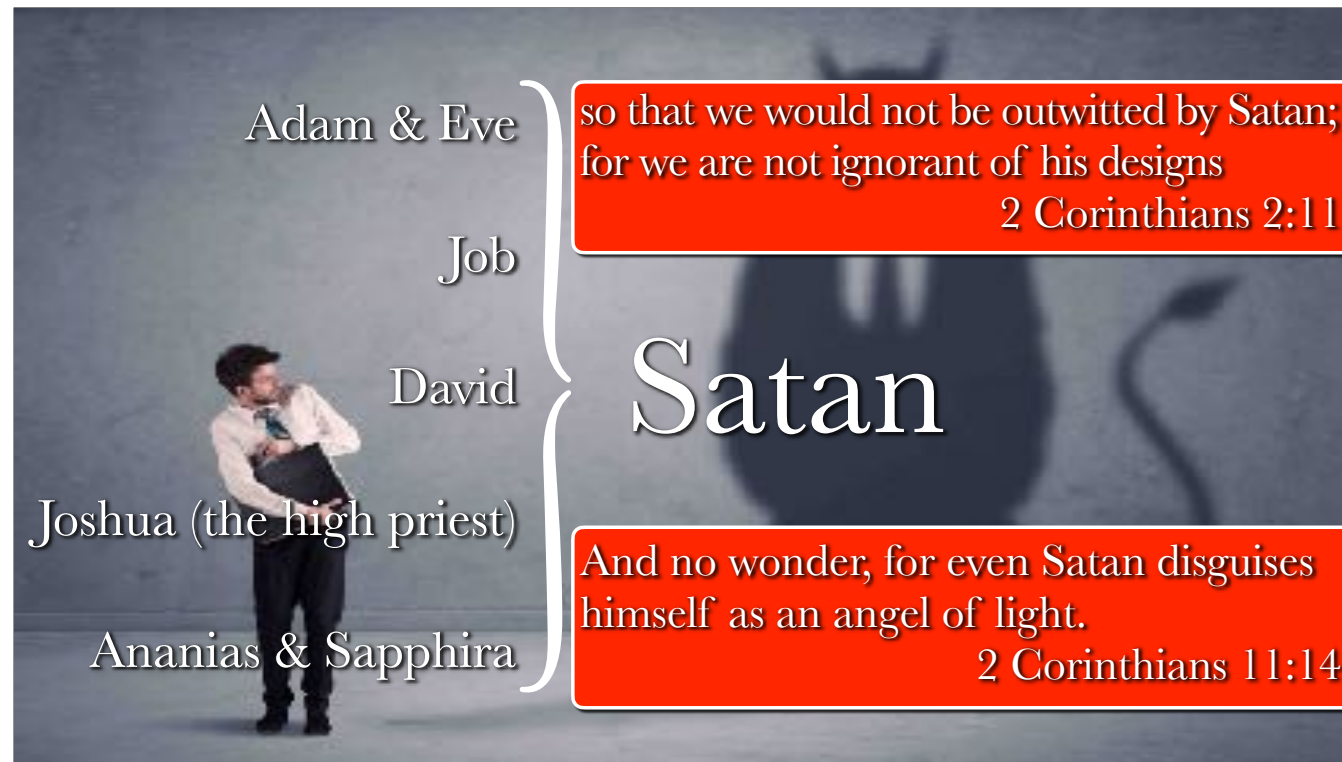
- Adam & Eve; Job; David; Joshua (the High Priest); Ananias & Sapphira



- Adam & Eve; Job; David; Joshua (the High Priest); Ananias & Sapphira
- Serpent; Satan



- 2 Corinthians 2:11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.



- 2 Corinthians 2:11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.



- Taken Captive



- Taken Captive (Colossians 2:8)
  - Philosophy — reasoned arguments that seem credible
  - Empty Deceit — lies .... that fail to deliver
  - Human tradition — tradition is a powerful word (but it doesn't mean true or right)
  - Elemental spirits — (or principles) — false foundations or basics; maybe even religious practices misunderstood to save us



- 13: Dead in trespasses
  - 13: uncircumcision of the flesh





- 14: record of debt
  - stood against us
  - legal demands
    - (It's commonly interpreted as the Mosaic law, the OT, but the scope of Paul's message is more than just to the Israelites ... he's talking about sin generally)
    - Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
    - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



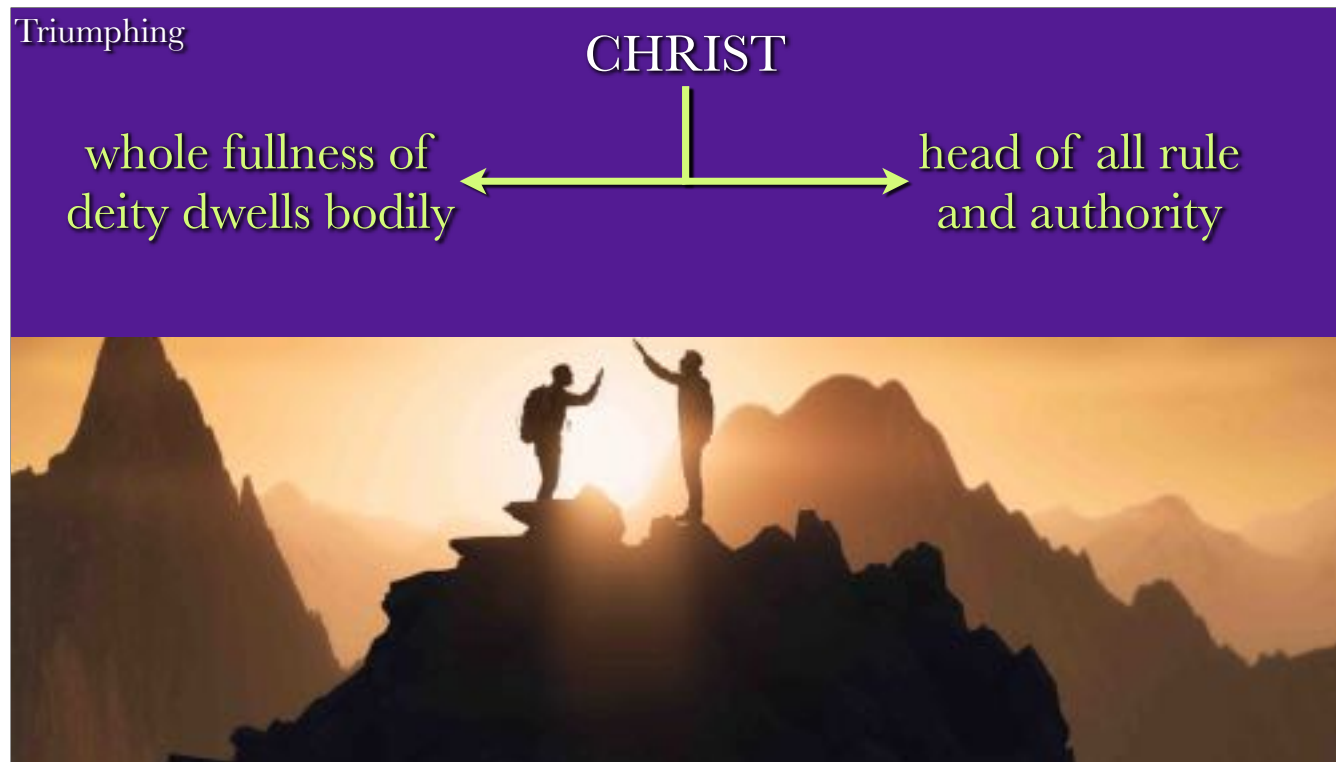
- 15: rulers and authorities
  - 8: “see to it that NO ONE takes you captive”
  - These philosophies, deceits, traditions, and elemental principles don’t just arrive in a vacuum.
  - They are taught, passed down, praised, and used to keep us in the world (and dead)



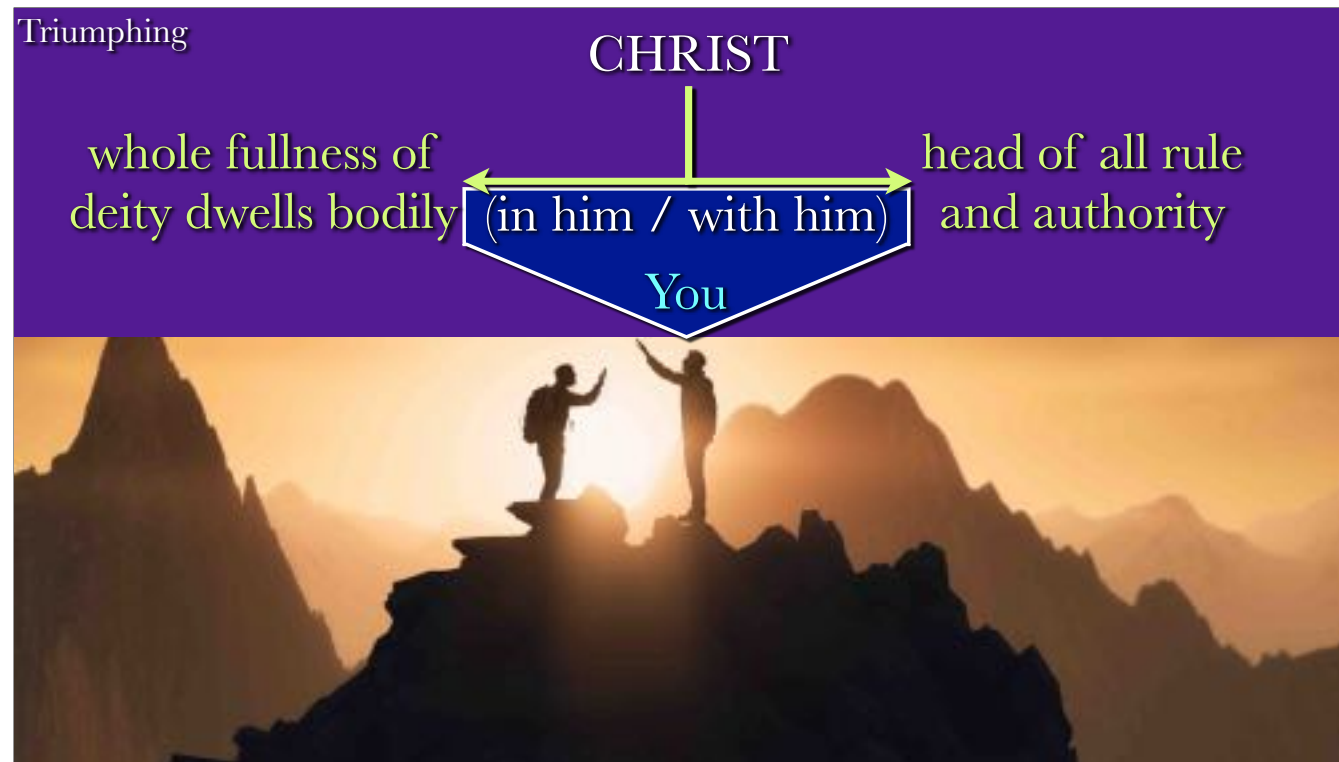
- All of this sounds hopeless.
- Is there salvation? deliverance? help?



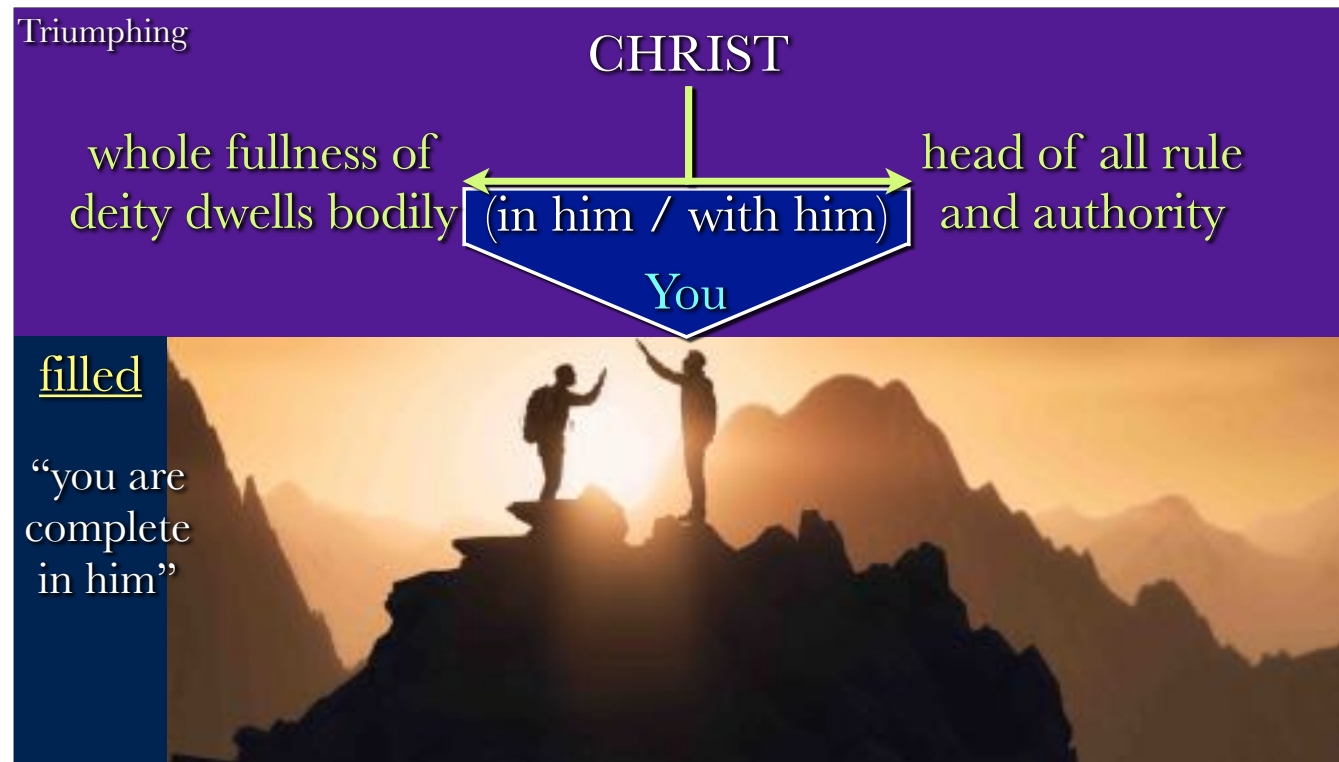
- Paul begins with being taken captive and ends with the triumph we have in Jesus and his cross.



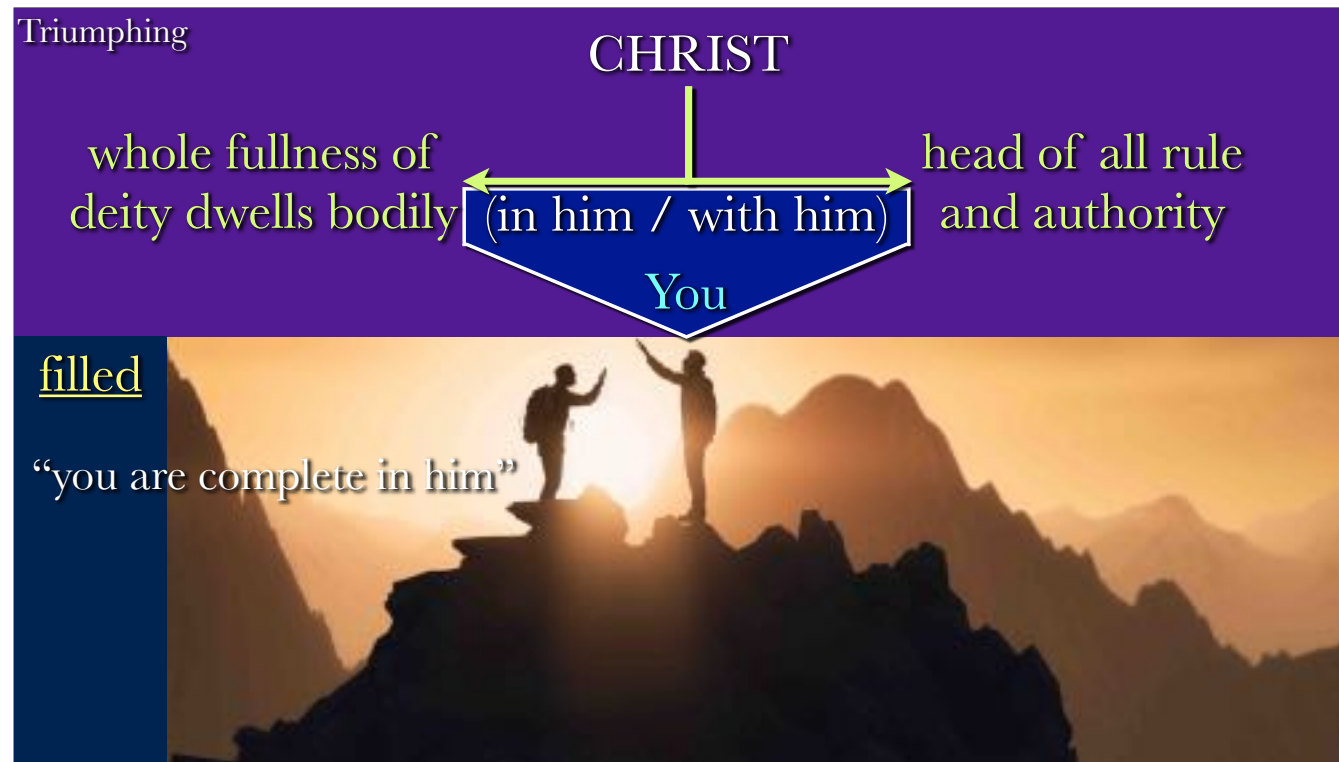
- Who is Christ
  - Deity — bodily
  - Head
- Why do these matter?
  - Reminds us that by nature, power, and right Jesus went to the cross
    - fulfilling God's plan and purpose
    - but also because he loved us so much
  - That he has the ability to save us, along with the desire



- As we go through this text, Paul emphasizes to each of us “You”
  - when we are “in him”
  - or when we are “with him”
- The point he makes is that the only way we are going to triumph is because of Jesus
  - Sometimes that’s hard for us to hear
  - But that’s because we don’t really think of ourselves as dead, nor captive, nor in debt
  - So, we need a hero, a savior, someone who will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- The one who saves us is the one who is deity and head
  - The one who gave all on the cross for me

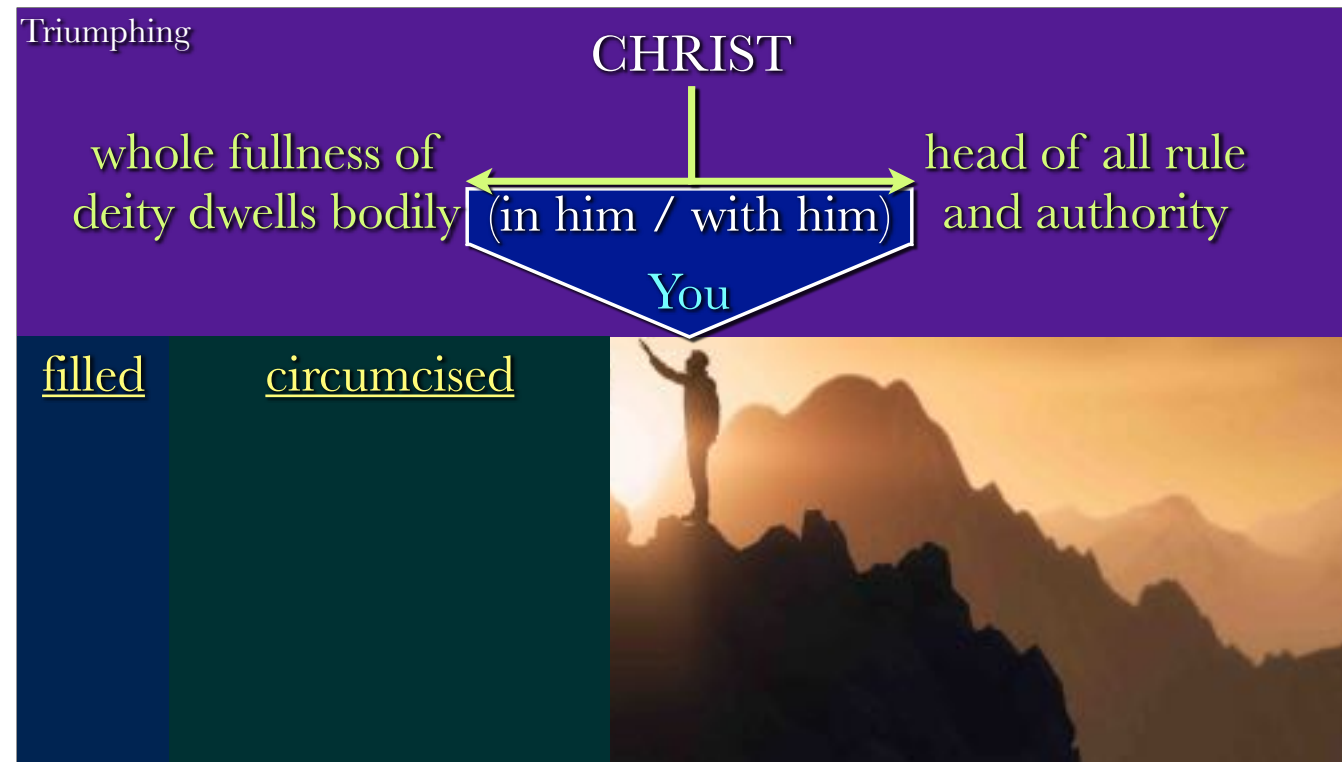


- Colossians 2:9-10 — For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
- Some versions: “you are complete in him”
- Just as Jesus
  - human body
  - fullness (same root word)
    - of deity
    - his human, physical body was not a limitation to him being completely divine

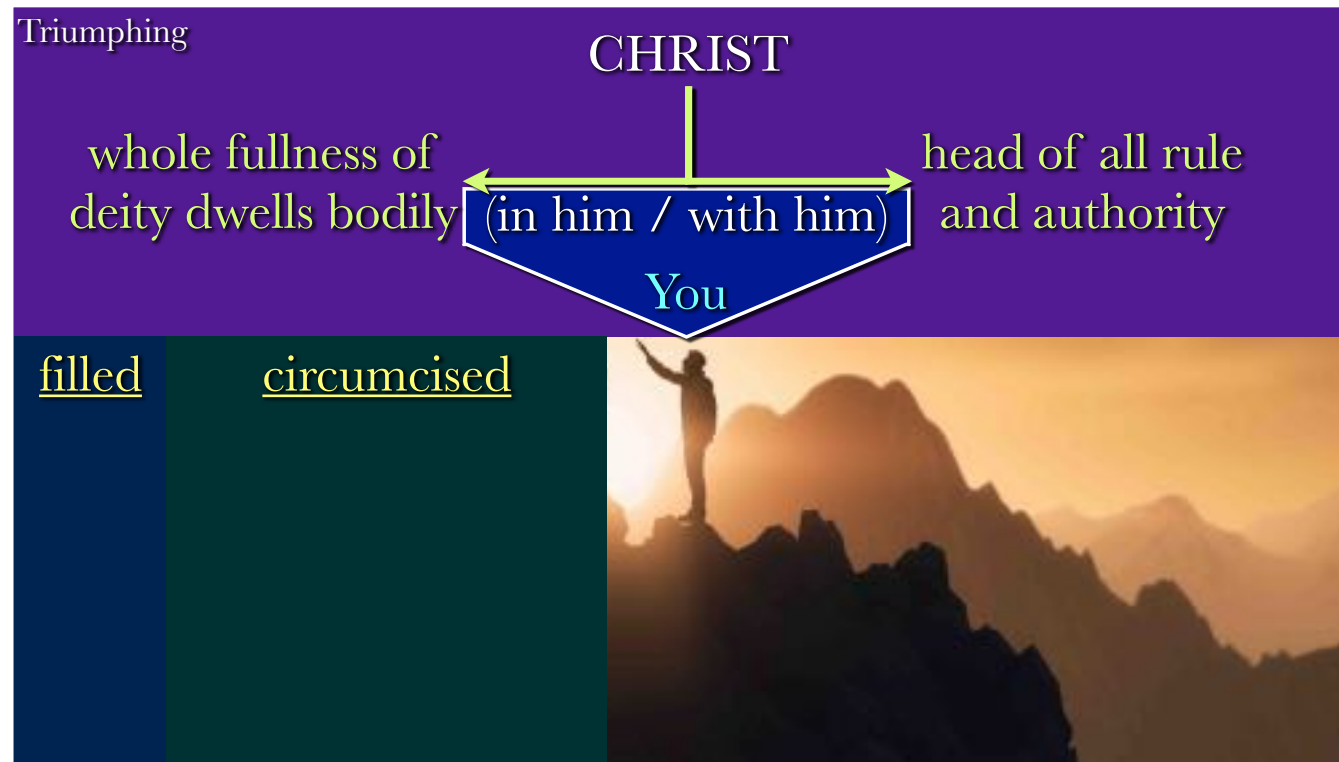


- In Jesus, you are filled just like he is filled
  - You are complete
  - What more do you need?
    - Consider how important this is in being able to triumph over the world
    - All you need is him:
      - He loves you.
      - He came for you.
      - He died for you.
      - He was raised for you.
      - He is your savior and king
      - He is your brother and friend

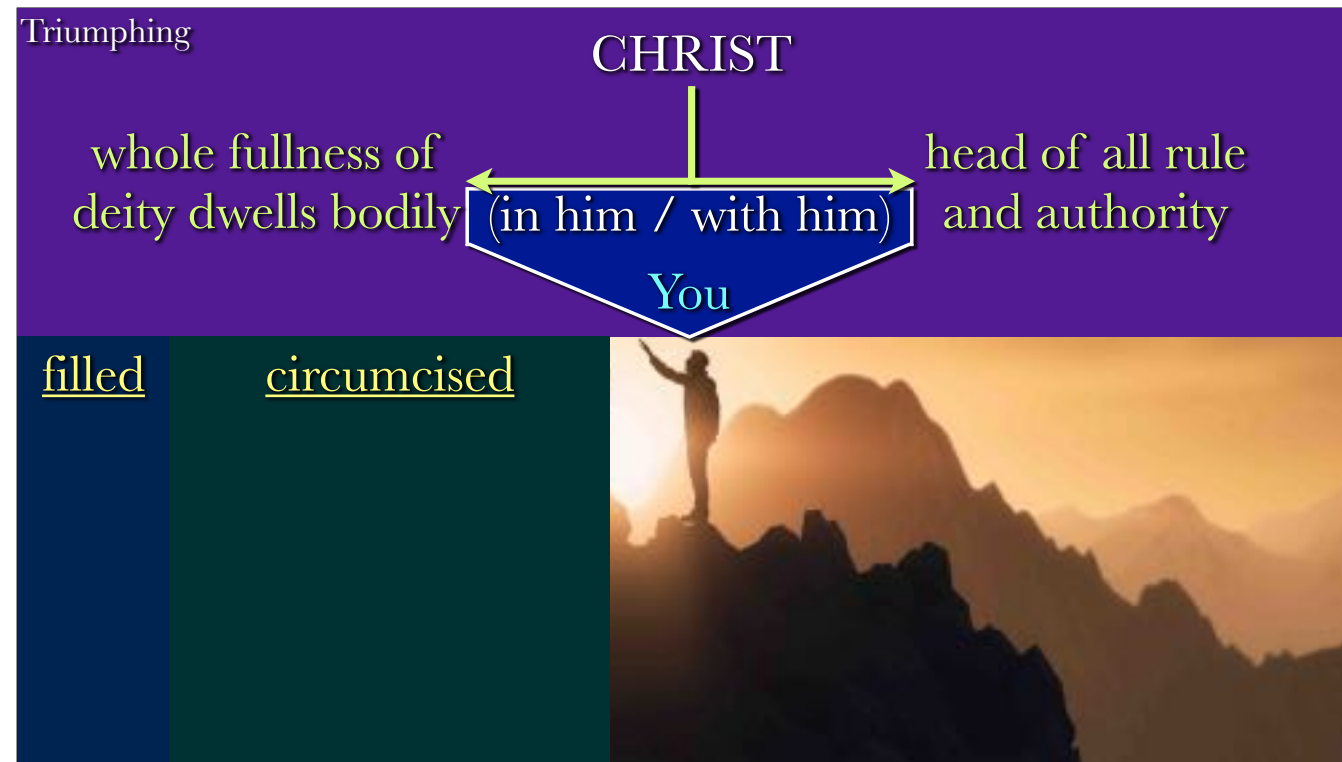




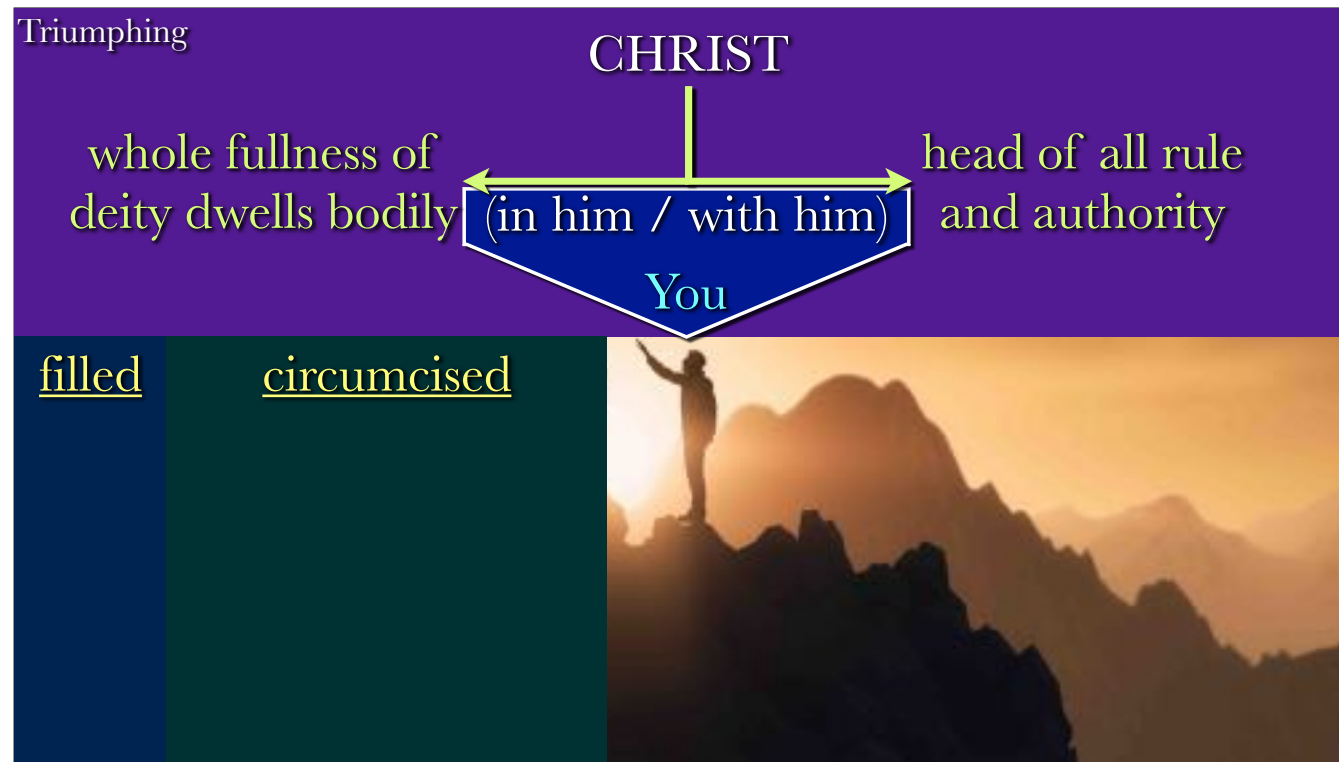
- Circumcision is a part of God's plan since the time of Abraham
  - Honestly, it's one aspect of how God acts that seems very odd to me



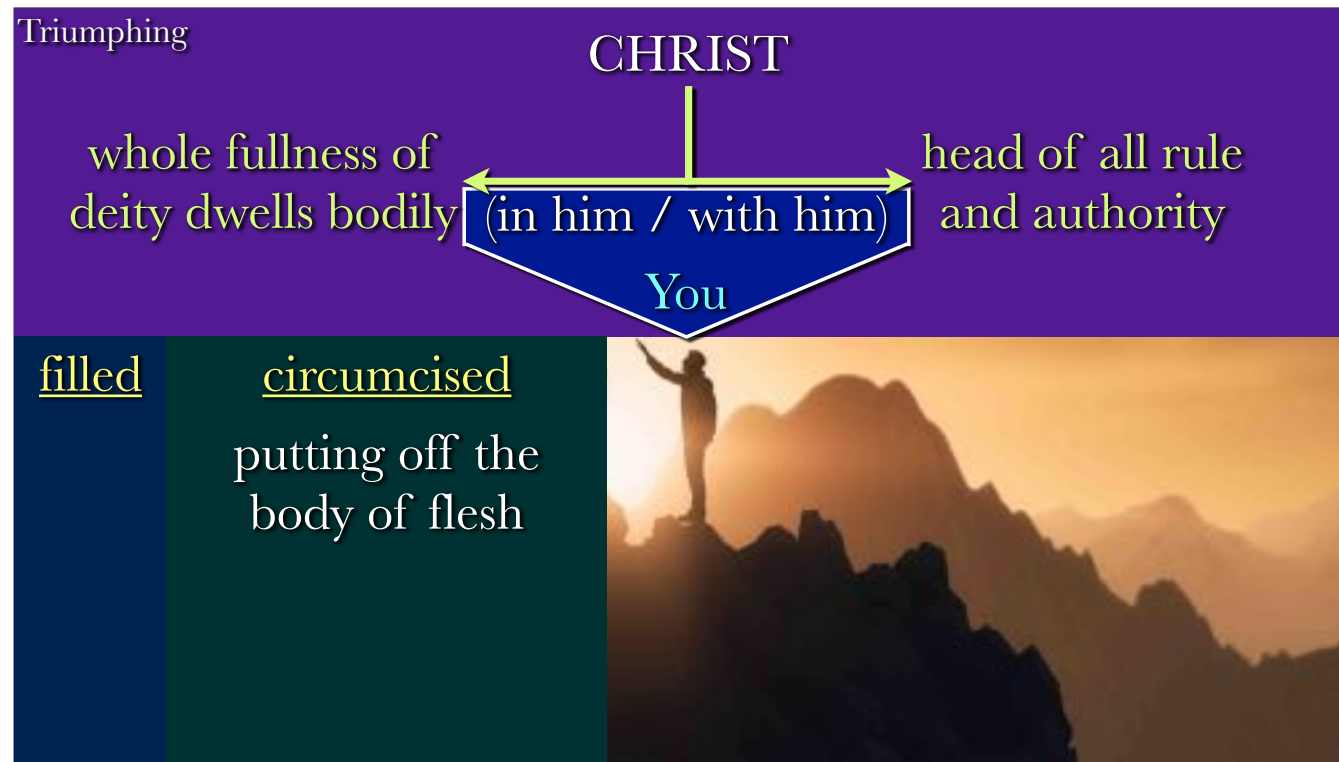
- Abraham
  - Genesis 17:10-11 — This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.
  - God Almighty: walk before me, be blameless
  - Multiply you greatly; multitude of nations; exceedingly fruitful, kings come from you
  - covenant with offspring: God to you; land of Canaan



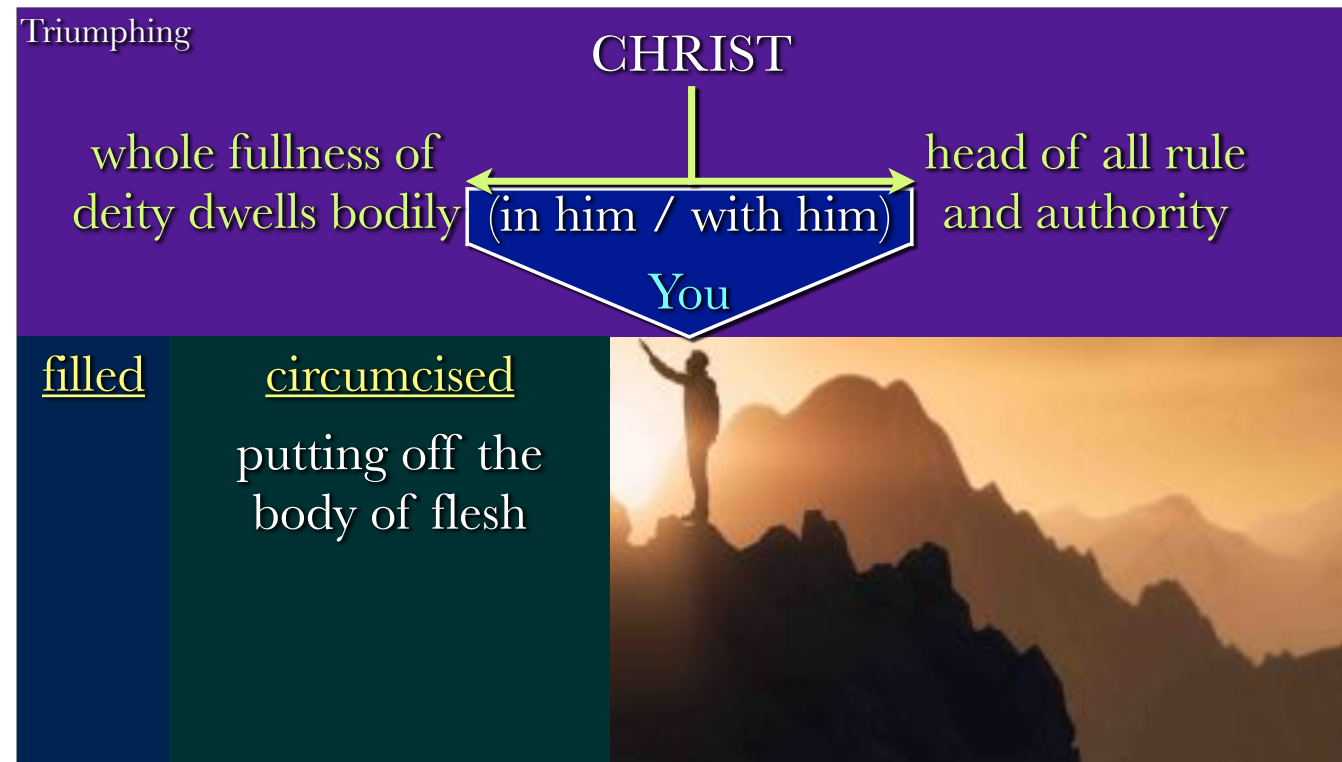
- More than just cutting the flesh: metaphor (deeper meaning that reflected their commitment to Jehovah)
  - lips, ear, and heart



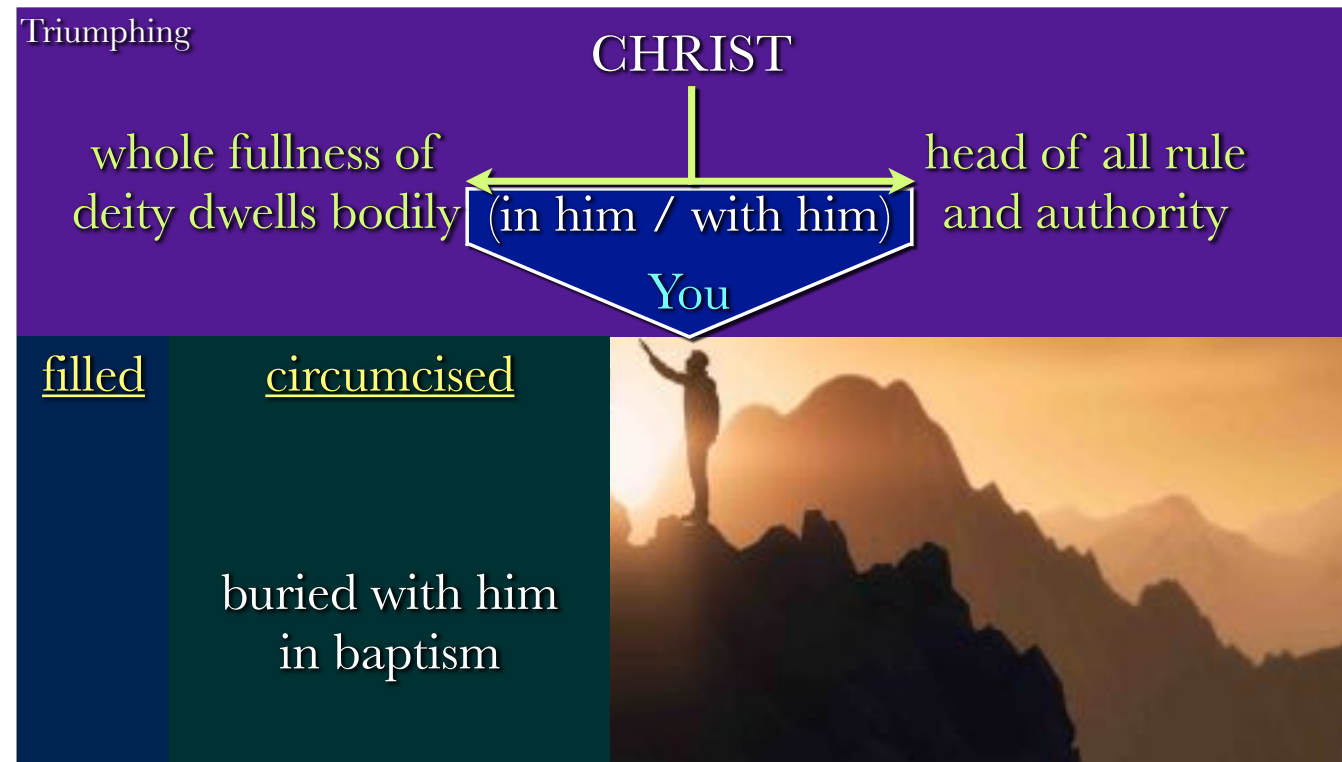
- Circumcision without hands (11)
  - Important to remember that even in the old covenants
    - They really did have to be circumcised
    - The meaning of the circumcision is deeper than what happened to the flesh.
  - Since our circumcision is not made with hands, it's not a physical circumcision.
    - It's affect is not on our flesh, but on our spirit
      - So how is one circumcised spiritually?



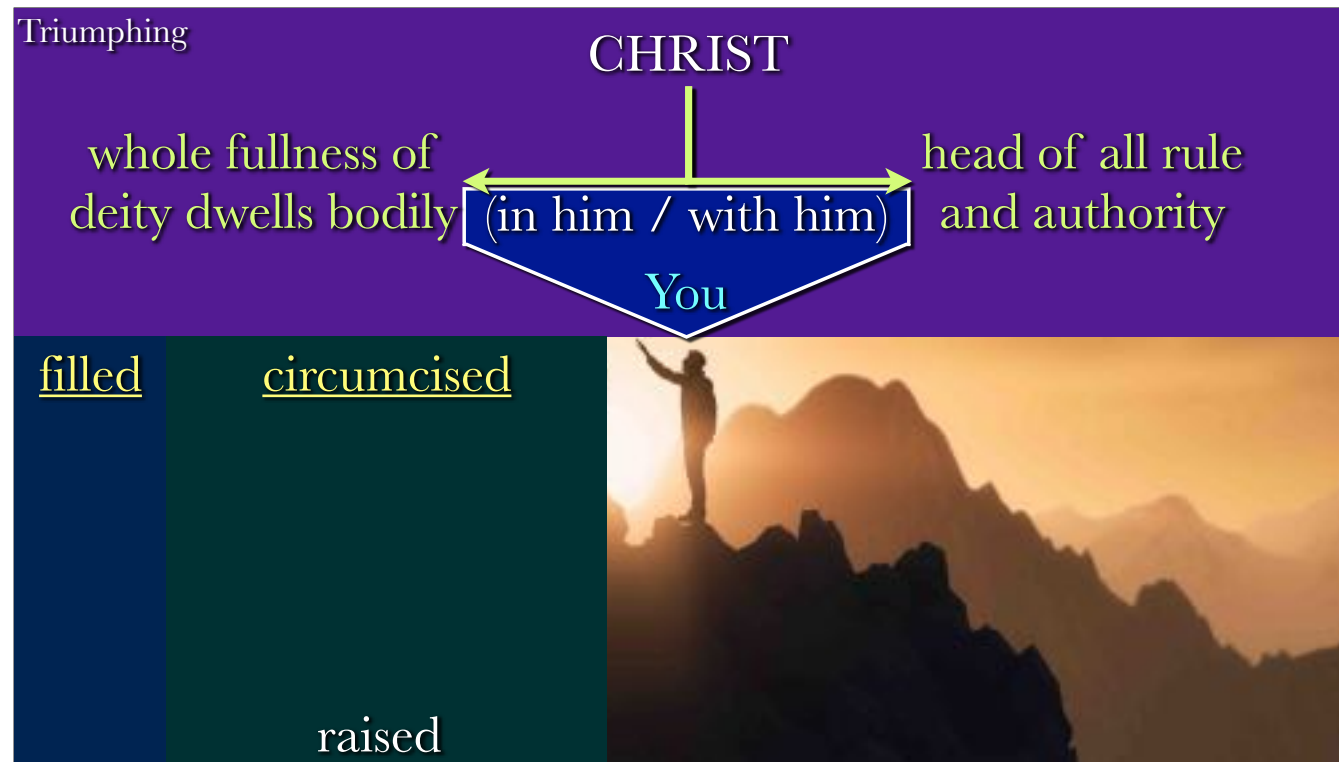
- 1) putting off the body of the flesh — Death
  - clearly not a physical death
    - Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh
  - Galatians 6:14-15 — But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.  
15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.



- Romans 6:6-8 (ESV) 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

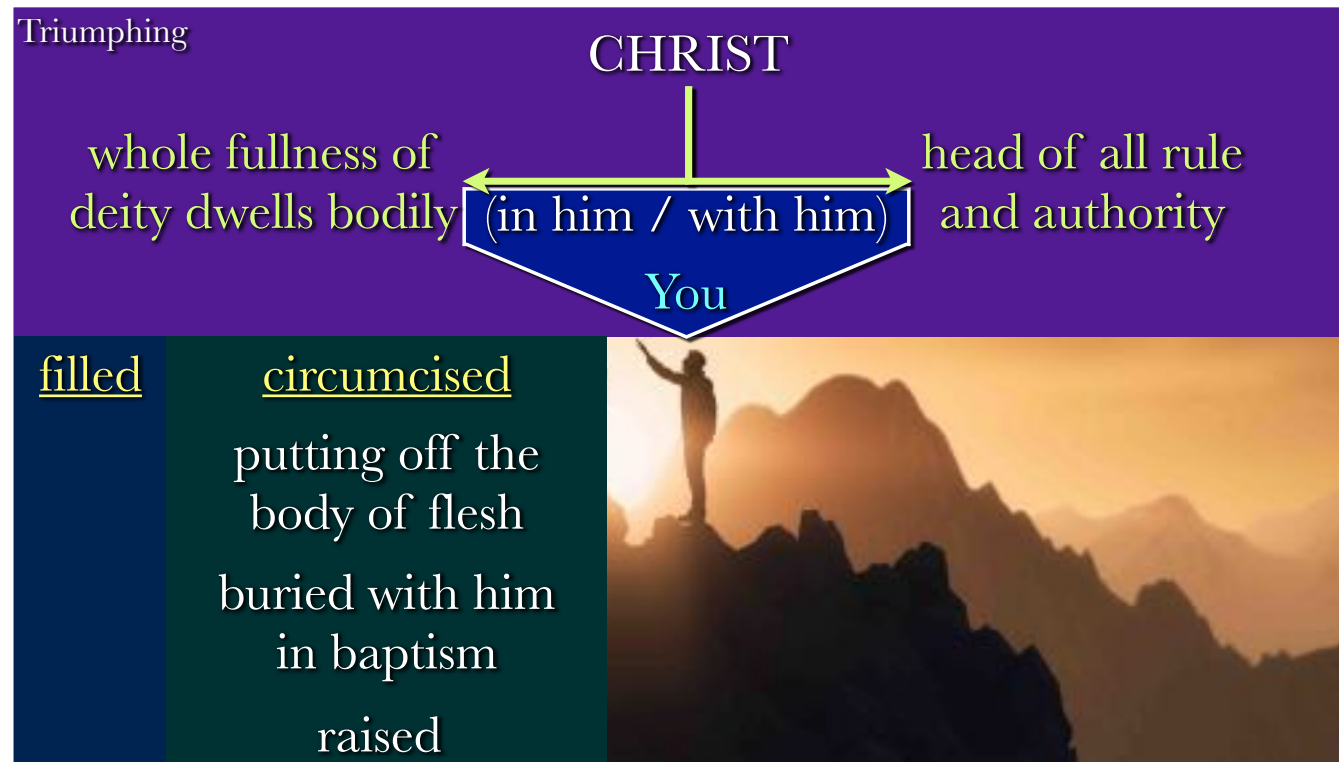


- 2) Buried with him in baptism
  - Romans 6:4 (ESV) 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

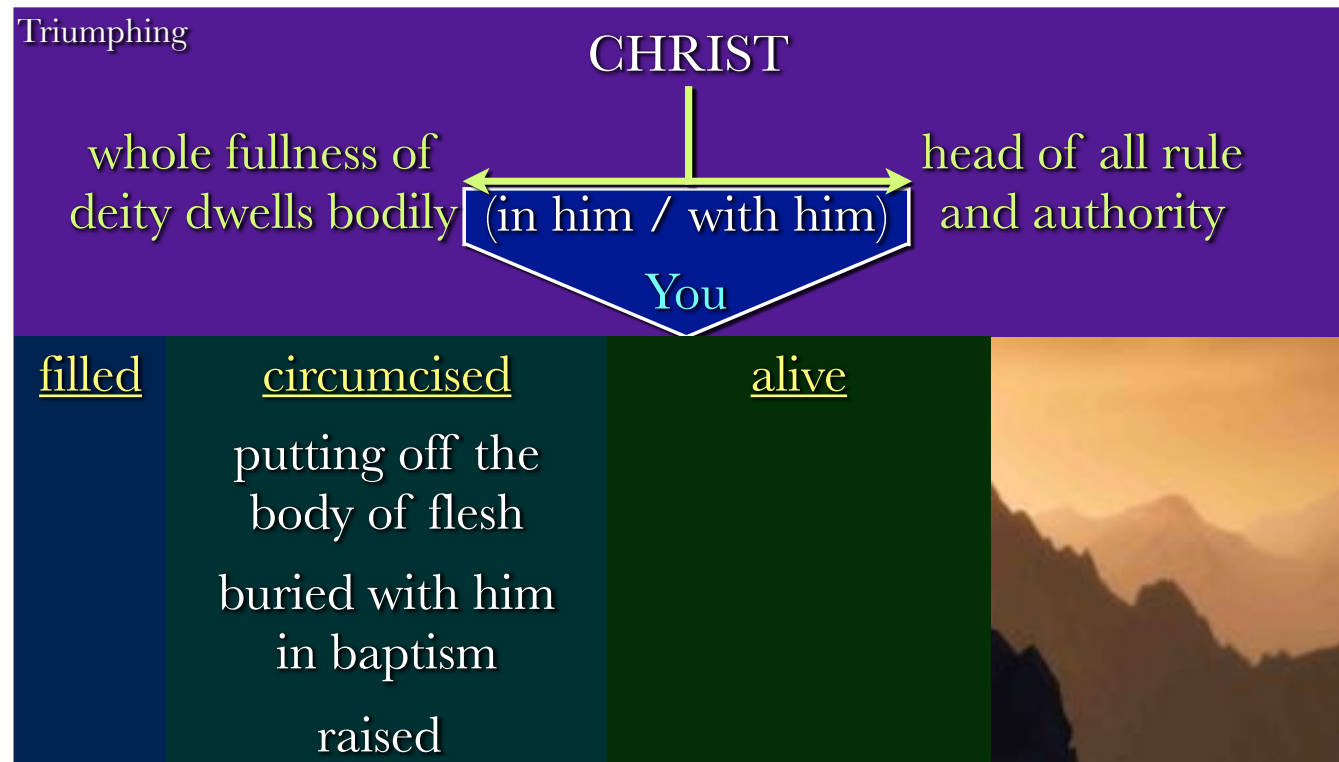


- 3) Raised with him through faith ... powerful working of God
  - Romans 6:5 (ESV) 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
  - 1 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV) 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.
  - Colossians 2:13 God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses

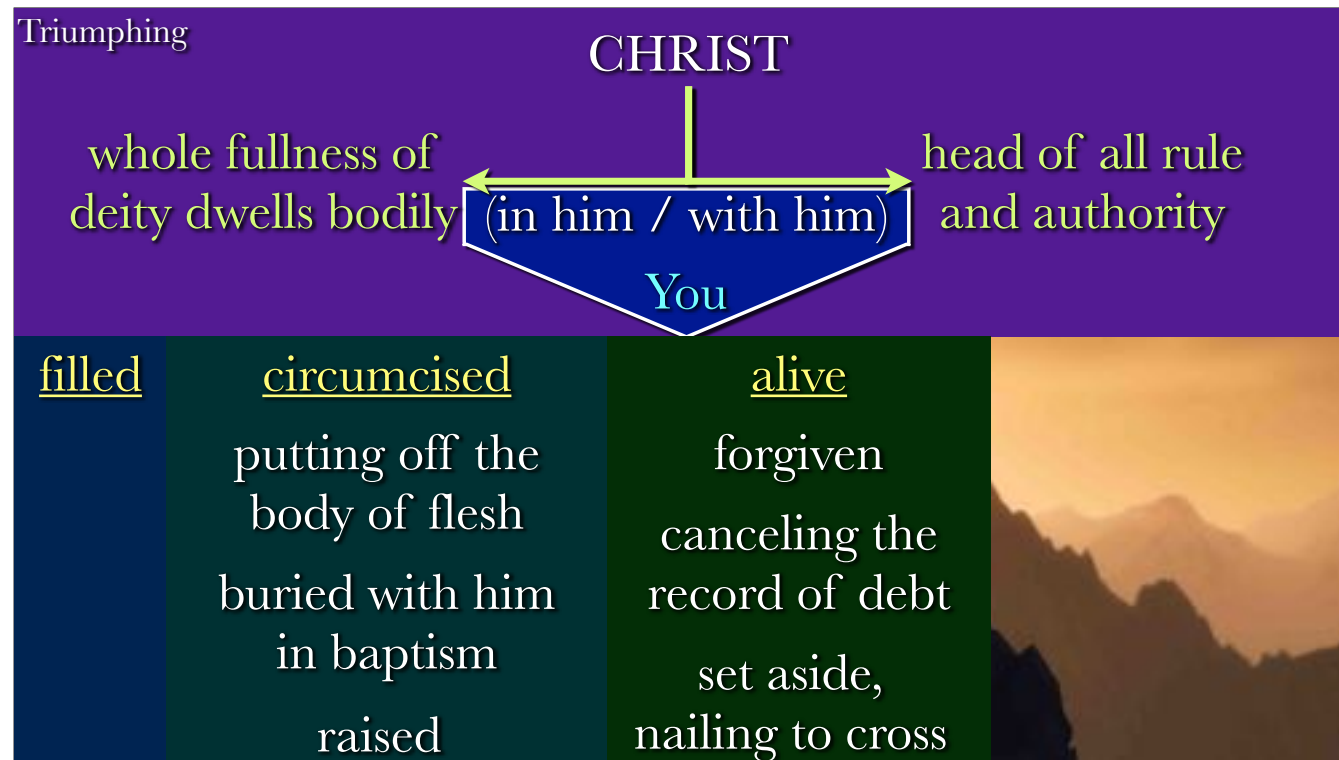




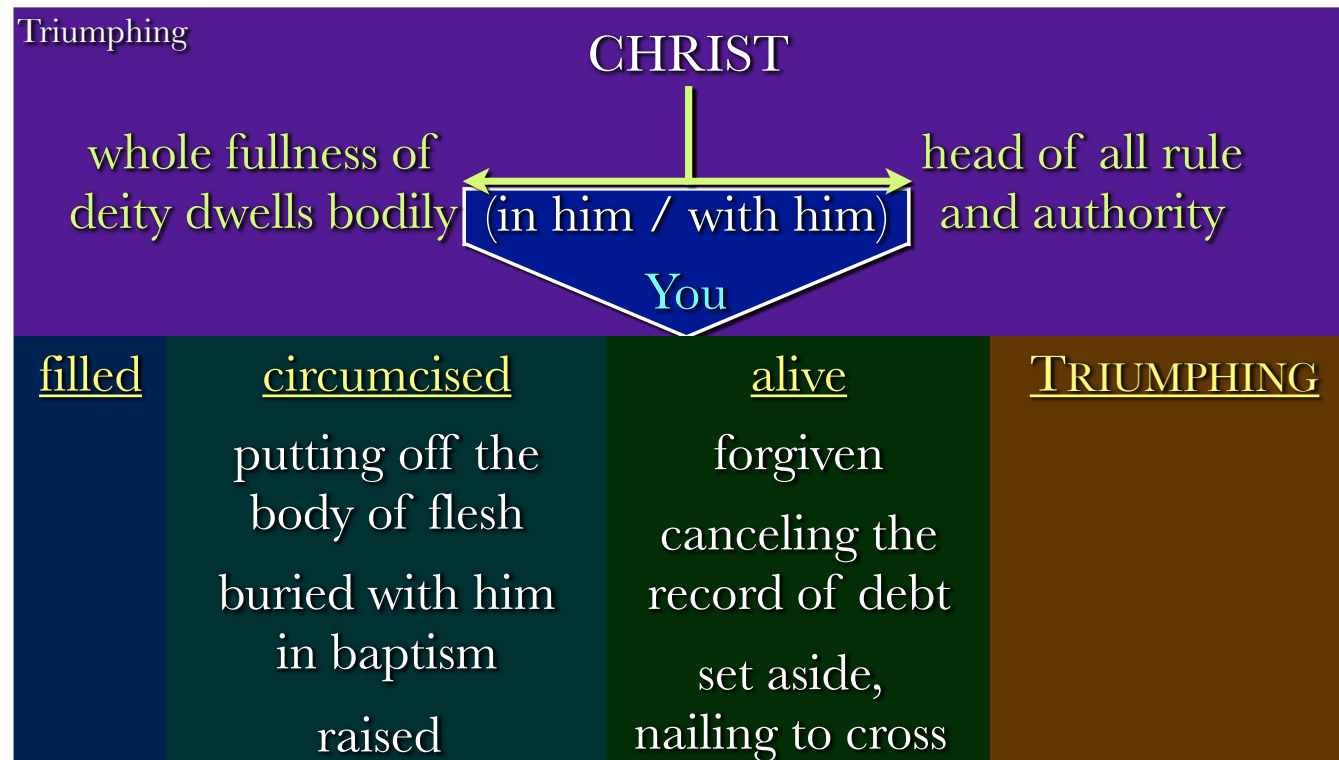
- Circumcision through baptism
  - Covenant — like Abraham (?)
    - between God and man
    - walk before me
    - be blameless
  - Walk before God — dead to the world, alive to God
    - Walked in way of the world: dead to God



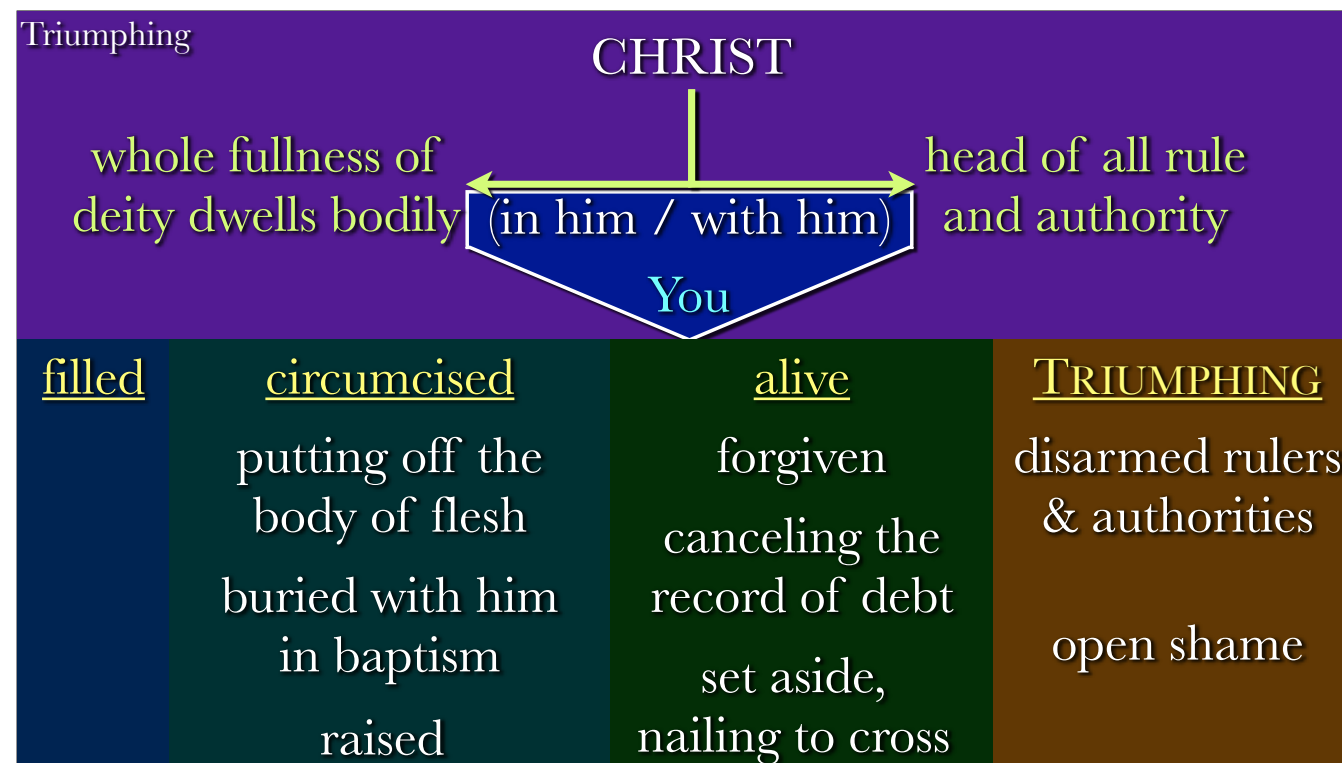
- Alive
  - 13) dead in trespasses
    - 13) uncircumcision of the flesh
  - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death
  - How can we be made alive?
    - It's not something we can do for ourselves.
    - But someone who is deity? Can he do it? — power
    - Someone who has all authority? Can he do it? — right



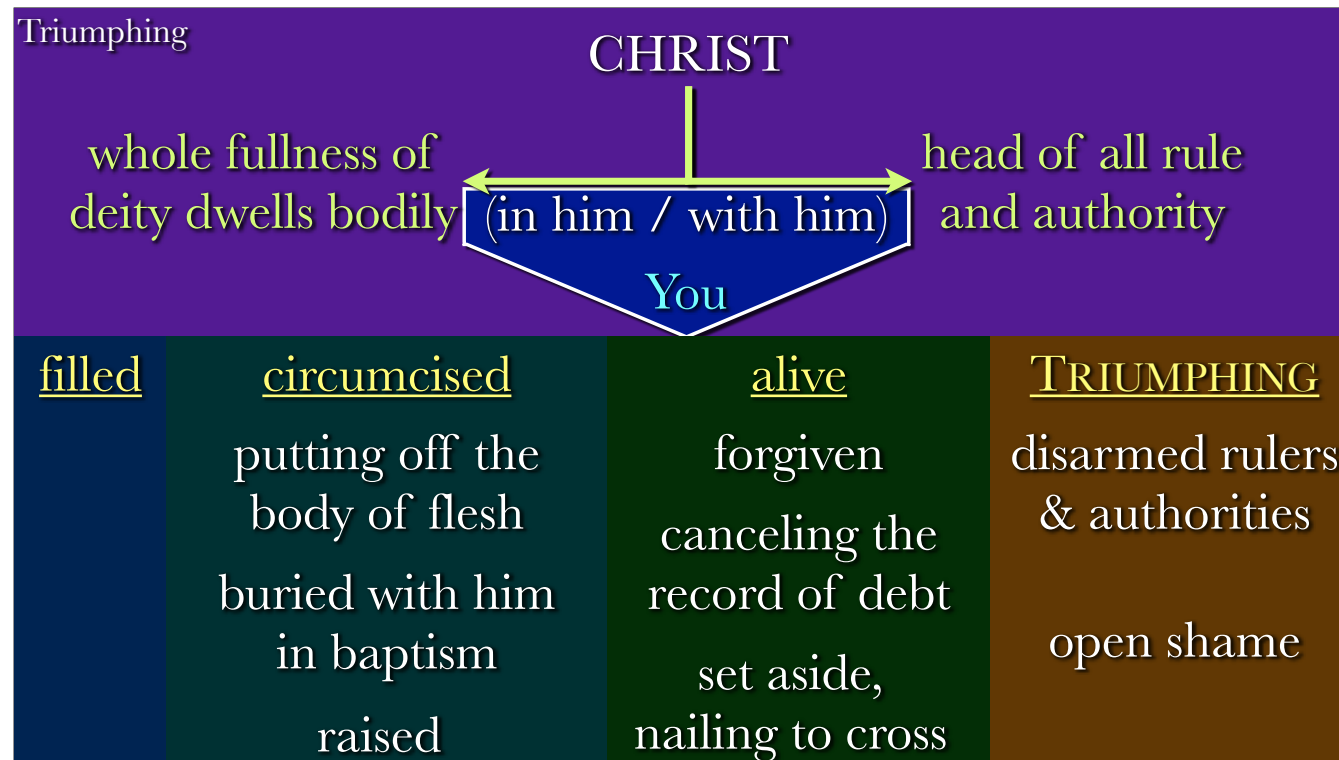
- How we are made alive ...
  - Forgiven: “to bestow a favor unconditionally” (Vine)
  - Cancelling: “blot out, wipe away; obliterate” (Vine)
  - Set Aside: “out of the way” (Vine)
    - nailing it to the cross: through Jesus dying on the cross, sins were graciously taken away



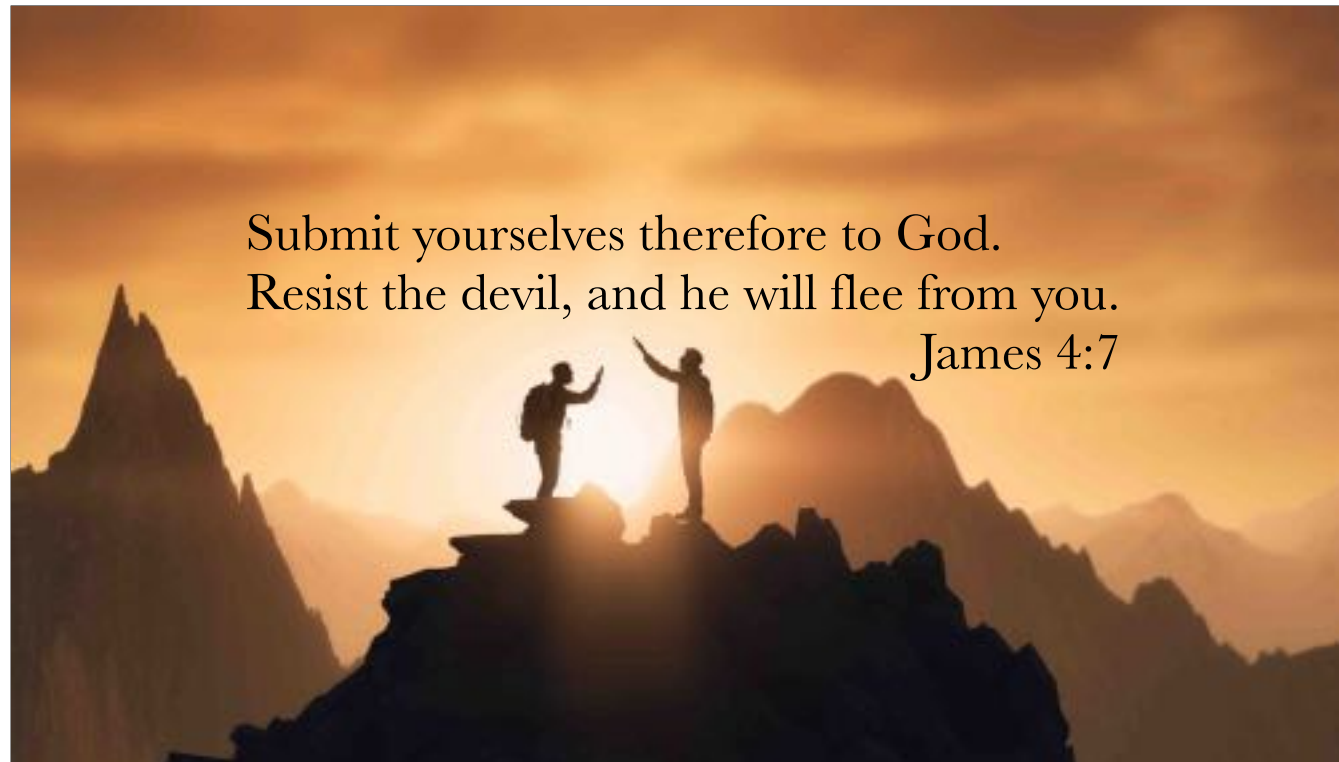
- Triumphing —
  - conquering, vanquishing
  - in him, or in it: In Jesus or in the cross
    - What looked to the world as defeat (mocking)
    - Was the moment of triumph



- rulers and authorities — Satan and those who follow Satan, the world
  - disarmed: deprive of power
    - He is the head of all rule and authority!
  - open shame: exposed
    - That they have been overcome?
    - That they have been shown to not be what we thought they were
      - or what they thought they were
- Who does this leave us in the care of?
  - Christ: deity and head, savior



- What do we see happening?
- The cross deals with our sins: we are forgiven and made alive
- The cross brings us together with Christ: united in baptism, covenant relationship
- The cross disarms those who seek to control us: Satan and the world
- In the cross, we who were once captive are now triumphing.
- This is why we glory in the cross
  - James 4:7
    - Submit yourselves therefore to God.
    - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.



- James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action



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## Triumphing in the Cross

Colossians 2:8-15

Synopsis: Paul reminds us that there are some rulers and authorities who have taken us captive, and we are dead and in debt. But in Christ and the cross we can triumph because he fills us, we are circumcised, and made alive. (Adapted from The Cross by Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**