**2 11** In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.   
**13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. …

**20** If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— **21** “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” **22** (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? **23** These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

**3 1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Union with Christ Revisited   
(Colossians 2:11-13 and 2:20-3:4)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Past | Jesus died | We have died with Christ |
| Jesus was buried | We were buried with Christ |
| Jesus was resurrected | We have been raised with Christ |
| Jesus ascended |
| Present | Jesus lives at God’s right hand | Our lives are hidden with Christ, who is our life |
| Future | Jesus will appear in glory | We will be revealed with Christ in Glory |

*So? What does this have to do with me? I’m fine without all this theological gobbledygook.*  
C. S. Lewis said, “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not to strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” (*Weight of Glory*, page 2)