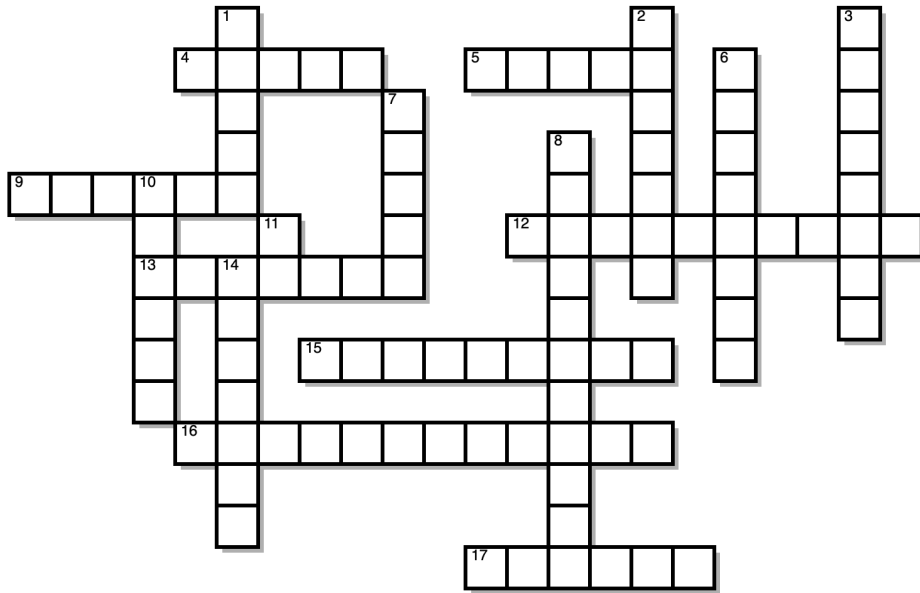


CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

ACTS 15:1-2 & COLOSSIANS 2:1-15



Across

- 4 Abraham's father.
- 5 Men came down from this region to give the Gentile believers some new rules.
- 9 The new circumcision is performed in our hearts by the _____ (Romans 2:29).
- 12 Colossians 2:13 says that we have been forgiven of all our _____.
- 13 _____ Blondin was a famous French tightrope walker.
- 15 _____ in July is a holiday just around the corner that may represent a date closer to when the events in and surrounding the incarnation of Jesus actually took place.
- 16 What does Colossians 2:7 say we ought to abound in?
- 17 "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells _____" (Colossians 2:9).

Down

- 1 What internal organ does Paul say needs to be circumcised?
- 2 Colossians 2:12 says that we have been buried with Jesus in His _____.
- 3 Without this, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).
- 6 Paul and _____ and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders to help settle the debate.
- 7 Abraham's father likely made these.
- 8 The Judaizers tried to compel the Gentile men to become _____.
- 10 This was cancelled on our behalf (Colossians 2:14).
- 11 Abraham was from the land of _____.
- 14 This man believed and was justified before ever having been circumcised.

1. As a kid, what did you think a "religious" person was like? How did you feel about that type of person?

2. Do/did you consider your parents "permissive" or "strict"? Why? (Did they have a lot of rules for you, or just a few? Which was the biggest?)

3. What does "living in Christ" (v.6) entail (see 1:10-12)?

4. What does the phrase "rooted and built up" imply to you?

5. What are "the basic principles of this world" (vv.8,20) and the "powers and authorities" (vv.10,15)? How did Christ give the Colossians victory over these things?

6. What kind of circumcision is done by Christ (v.11)? How did He do it (vv.12-15)?

7. What experiences does the believer share with Christ (vv.9-13)? What implications are drawn from this (vv.13,16-17,20-23)?

8. What is the result of trying to base one's relationship with God on rule-keeping or on private visions, as the false teachers were doing?

9. When have you felt like the "roots" of your faith in Christ were barely below the surface? What helps you to sink those roots deeper?

10. What additions to the faith have you encountered from people who try to encourage you to be "more spiritual"?

11. What convinced you that trying to live up to religious rules couldn't change you on the inside? In what area do you want to apply Paul's solution this week?

Sermon Notes:

G A E C I D O A L C S N M O S E S
 T N R A I S E D A E E R I C H E S
 E D I B P V Y N R V N A I L I N G
 A E R D I O C U I O U M O D S I W
 C I M L N E S G D T O E M A H S D
 H R A R L A R T H E C T E K N I T
 I U T L E O T O L N B G E D M T N
 N B I R F A R S A E D A I D Y Y B
 G N T T I I B R R E S S T S G Q L
 G L B L T U U R L E A D R E B K B
 D E U I L S M W A R D E L D E R S
 D A E A S U O P M H L N O R B M L
 P S E A P N F E H U A G U X R G Z
 Z L W D K M D Z R K X M Y L Y B L

Teaching	Riches	Debt
Moses	Full	Cancelling
Paul	Treasures	Nailing
Debate	Wisdom	Disarmed
Apostles	Rooted	Rulers
Elders	Buried	Authorities
Laodicea	Raised	Shame
Knit	Dead	Triumph
Assurance	Alive	Abraham
Understanding	God	
Knowledge	Forgiven	