

Colossians 2:11 to 2:15

11 In Jesus Christ 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 by Christ,

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.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive 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.

Summary of the Sermon

In my **sermon** I claim, that being “in Christ“ means “to be connected with Him“.

Circumcision in a christian way (“not performed by human hands“) means, that everything that hinders us to be with God (i.e. all our sins) is cut off.

Being in Christ, being deeply connected with Him, makes His fate to ours – and the other way round: makes our fate to His. It is not difficult, to be connected with Him! Baptism is like being buried with Him, and coming out of the water means to rise up into a new life. It is all about faith and trust. If we trust in Him, His cross is our cross, and our cross is His. Moreover, His resurrection is our resurrection as well!

This is our hope – for this world and for eternity. Maybe, some people in middle Europe will not understand but criticise this kind of triumphalism, reminding us of fatal crusades in the middle ages, when triumphalistic church members tried to fight others with martial means. But even today we cannot give up, what Paul is claiming in Verse 15, talking about God **having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross** (which reminds us of earlier times, when the Roman Emperor paraded his enemies in triumph).

I think, people in Europe and even in Germany often are well-fed and full of nearly everything they can get. But they miss real hope. So my suggestion to those critics is to talk to people from poor countries and other continents, just to learn about all those deadly **powers and authorities**, Paul is talking about: for example brutal armies, child soldiers and raped young girls, or lack of medical support and all those things being very near to your daily life. So I recommend to talk to you people from Uganda, being our brothers and sisters, not only to learn about your situation but about your daily hope as well. Because as far as I have learned when meeting you in Uganda, generally your heart is full of resurrection, and most of you feeling to be part of Jesus Christ, the one who is triumphing over all his enemies by the cross, Amen.