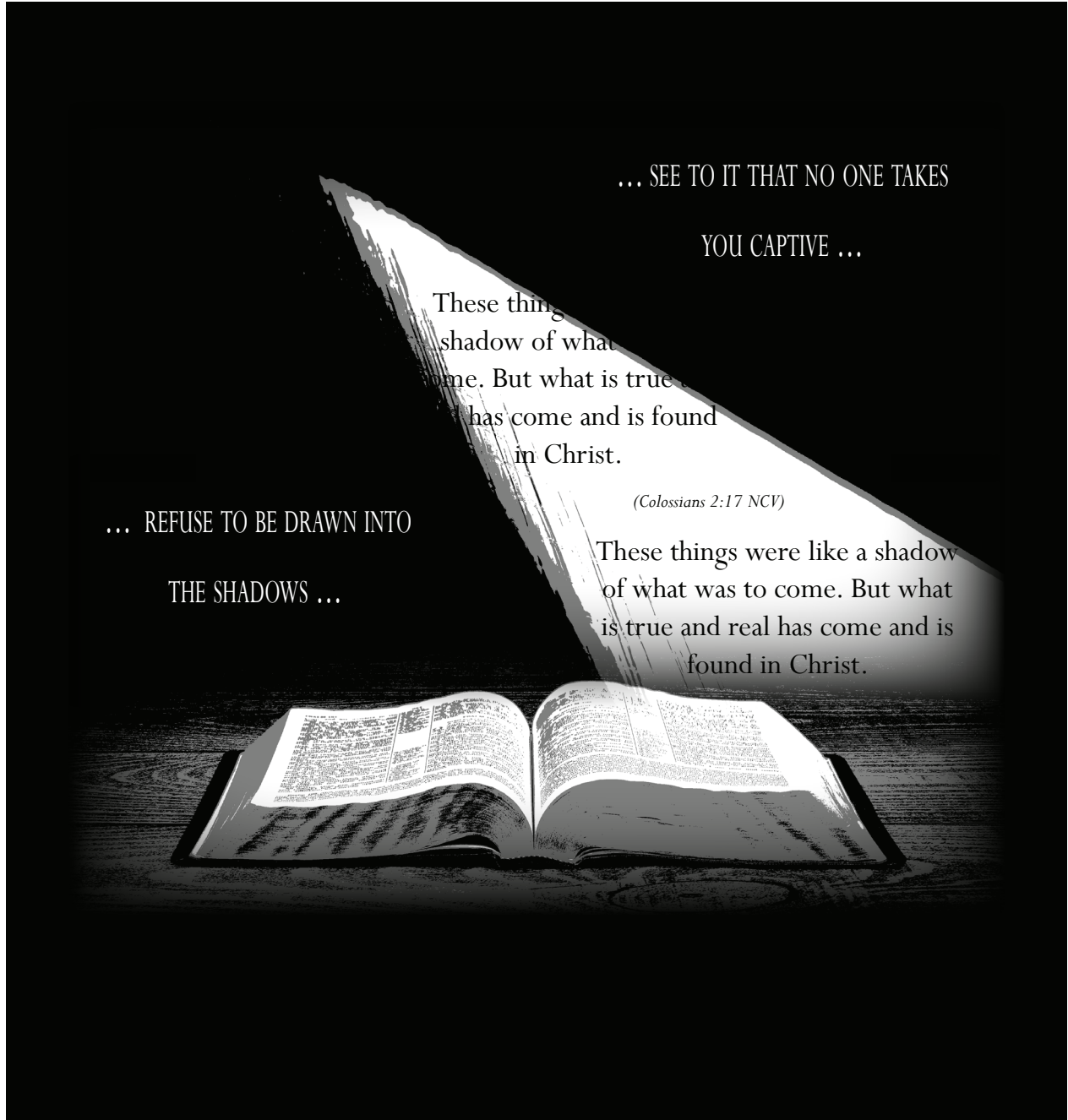


REFUSING TO LIVE IN THE SHADOWS

... choosing truth over the shadow of truth ...
... living in the power of God in the light of our salvation ...



... SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE TAKES

YOU CAPTIVE ...

These things were like a shadow of what was to come. But what is true and real has come and is found in Christ.

(Colossians 2:17 NCV)

These things were like a shadow of what was to come. But what is true and real has come and is found in Christ.

... REFUSE TO BE DRAWN INTO
THE SHADOWS ...

OUTLINE

WE WILL NOT BE DECEIVED WITH PERSUASIVE, WELL-CRAFTED, FINE-SOUNDING ARGUMENTS **WHEN WE ...**

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you
by fine-sounding arguments.

(Colossians 2:4 NIV)

1. **When we ...** live with an urgency to not be taken captive, 2:8.

- (Colossians 2:8 ESV) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

2. **When we ...** understand and believe in the powerful working of God alone, 2:9-12.

- (Colossians 2:9–12 ESV) 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. 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.

- A. Powerful Working of God #1: We have been filled in Christ, 2:9-10.
- B. Powerful Working of God #2: We have been buried with Christ, 2:11-12.
- C. Powerful Working of God #3: We have been raised with Christ, 2:11-12.

4. **When we ...** understand and accept what God accomplished through Christ alone, 2:13-15.

- (Colossians 2:13–15 ESV) 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, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- A. Accomplishment #1: God made us alive together with Christ, 2:13a.
- B. Accomplishment #2: God forgave all our trespasses, 2:13b.
- C. Accomplishment #3: God canceled the record of our sin debt, 2:14a.
- D. Accomplishment #4: God set aside the record of our sin debt, 2:14b.
- E. Accomplishment #5: God triumphed decisively over our enemies, 2:15.

4. **When we ...** allow no one to draw us into a shadow of the truth and away from the substance of truth found only in Christ, 2:16-19.

- (Colossians 2:16–19 ESV) **Therefore let no one pass judgment on you** in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 **Let no one disqualify you**, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

A. **LET NO ONE JUDGE YOU, 2:16-17.**

- i. We must not allow anyone to judge us or condemn us on the basis of human wisdom and traditions, 2:16.
- ii. We must not allow anyone to draw us **into** a shadow of the truth and **away from** the substance of the truth that belongs to Christ alone, 2:17.

B. **LET NO ONE DISQUALIFY YOU, 2:18-19.**

ADDITION IS SUBTRACTION: When we are confronted with any spiritual experience which purports to complete the work of God in our

lives, we must be very careful that we are not, in effect, rejecting the full sufficiency of the powerful working of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

MORE NOTES ON BAPTISM

- Baptize ... Greek ... “βαπτίζω” ... literally means to “dip” or to “immerse”.

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF “BAPTISM” IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ... baptism by water ... the water baptism of Christ ... the baptism by Christ with the Spirit ... and the baptism of Christ metaphorically ...

BAPTISM OF WATER AND SPIRIT CONTRASTED

- (Mark 1:8 ESV) I have **baptized you with water**, but he will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit**.
- (Acts 1:5 ESV) For John **baptized with water**, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.
- (1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV) **For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

COMMENTARY

1 Corinthians 12:13 ... When Paul writes, “all of us were baptized,” is he referring to a literal or a figurative baptism? If taken literally, Paul is talking about water baptism. However, the verb to baptize often conveys a metaphorical sense. For instance, Jesus asks James and John whether they are able to be baptized with a baptism similar to his own (Mark 10:38).

Jesus is alluding not to his baptism in the Jordan but to his death on the cross (see also Luke 12:50; Acts 1:5; and 1 Corinthians 10:2). [Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). *Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Vol. 18, p. 430). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

1 Corinthians 12:13 ... Paul writes, “all of us were baptized,” and “all were made to drink of one Spirit.” ... This means that all true believers in Jesus Christ have been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Some scholars interpret the text as a reference to the sacraments of baptism and the

Lord’s Supper. ... **the text simply does not allude to water baptism.**

The flow of this verse intimates that to be baptized means to become a living member of the church upon conversion. When spiritual regeneration takes place in individuals, they enter the body of Christ, that is, the church. Not the external observance of water baptism but the internal transformation by the Holy Spirit brings people into a living relationship with Christ. [Ibid. (Vol. 18, p. 430)].

*****THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST METAPHORICALLY*****

- (Mark 10:38–40 ESV) Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or **to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “**The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,** 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”
- (Luke 12:49–51 ESV) I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! 50 **I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!** 51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

The baptism Christ speaks of in the above two texts is the baptism of his life and death which is ultimately **“accomplished”** through his death, burial and resurrection. God buries us with Christ in this baptism and raises us with Christ through this baptism.

- (Colossians 2:12 ESV) **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.

This “made without hands” baptism is the same baptism of Romans 6:3-4 and Galatians 3:27—the wonderful, powerful working of God through Christ Jesus our Lord to fully and completely save us from our sins.

This amazing, powerful, biblical doctrine of baptism and the implications it has for our great salvation should bring us to our knees in worship and praise.



CANCELLATION POLICY & TERMS:

Payment in full has been duly received by the Debtee for all past, present and future sins of the debtor and is accepted based on the faith of the debtor in the powerful work of God through Christ Jesus the Lord. Any and all legal demands accompanying this debt that have been heretofore incurred by said debtor have now been forewith canceled and set aside.

The Debtee has agreed with total and complete satisfaction to the terms of payment made through the substitutionary death of his Son and

has affirmed said payment by the raising to life of his Son and all those who have accompanied him by faith through his death.

THE TERMS OF THIS CANCELLATION POLICY ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND FINAL. No future accusations or condemnatory judgments for incurred debts of new or old sins against the debtor will be given any legal standing by this court of God or by any court in heaven or on earth at this time or in any age to come.

This debt has been paid in full and once for all. Terms of this cancellation agreement are non-negotiable.

- **ALL SINS FORGIVEN.**
- **ALL GUILT REMOVED.**
- **NOW AND FOREVER.**

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

(Colossians 2:14 NLT)