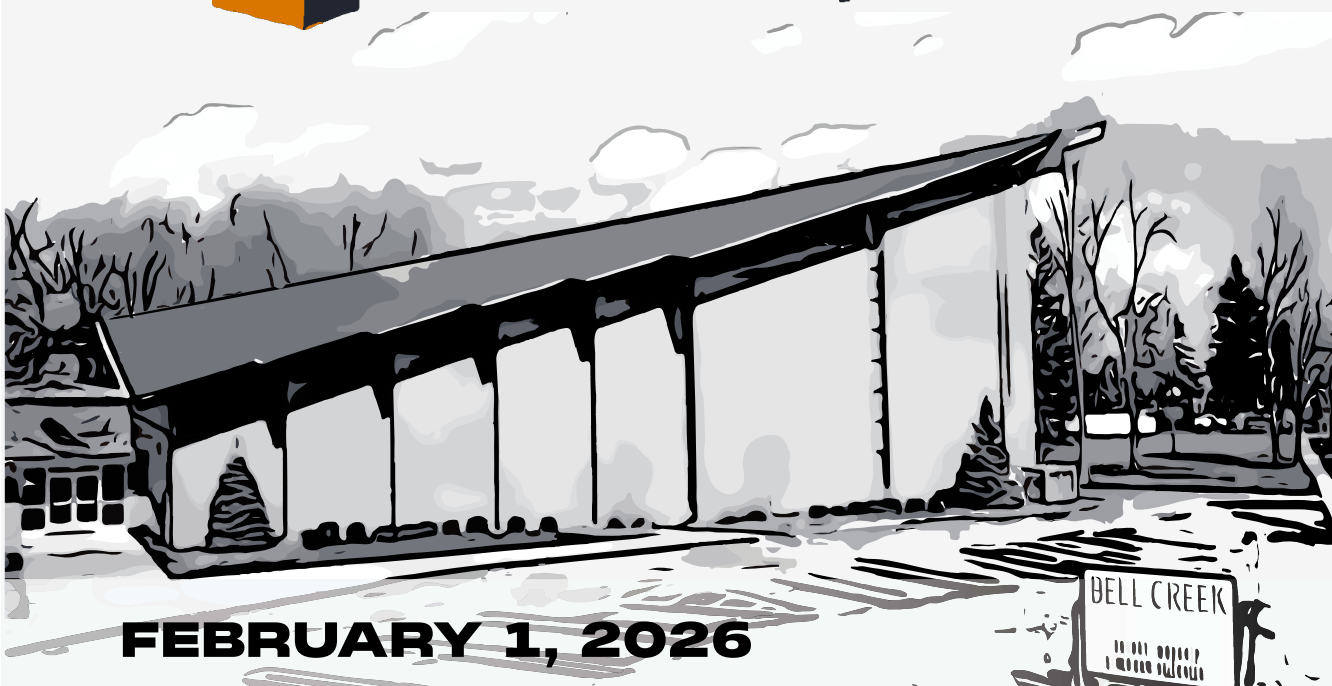


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



FEBRUARY 1, 2026

**FOLLOWING JESUS ON A SPIRITUAL
BATTLEFIELD
COLOSSIANS 1:12-14 AND COLOSSIANS 2:13-15**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
FOLLOW – OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

FOLLOWING JESUS ON A SPIRITUAL BATTLEFIELD

COLOSSIANS 1:12–14 AND COLOSSIANS 2:13–15

Our Enemies

Deception, Accusation, and Temptation

The Weapons of Our Warfare

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Galatians 5:14-26 to prepare for next week's sermon.

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

FEBRUARY 1: EXODUS 7-9
FEBRUARY 2: EXODUS 10-12
FEBRUARY 3: EXODUS 13-15
FEBRUARY 4: EXODUS 16-18
FEBRUARY 5: EXODUS 19-21
FEBRUARY 6: EXODUS 22-24
FEBRUARY 7: EXODUS 25-27

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Join Pastor Dylan to explore the history, literature and theology of each book of the New Testament on Sunday evenings at 6:00 in the Prayer Room.

AAA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Bell Creek is participating in AAA Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign to support the Sanctity of Human Life. Empty baby bottles are available in the back of the gym after both services for pick up. If you prefer to donate online or have questions, please contact Becky DeGrazia (BeckyD1633@gmail.com).

SPECIAL SUPPORT NEEDS PRAYER

Join us for a time of discussion and prayer for parents who have special support needs with family members who have underlying challenges that can limit the family's church attendance and involvement. We will meet on Saturday, February 7 from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Prayer Room. If you have questions, please contact Mike Henry (mhenry045@gmail.com).

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, February 8 to discuss *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis! Please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org) for more information.

AS THEY GO PRAYER MEETING

Join us for a time of prayer and encouragement for our adult children. We will meet on Saturday, February 14 from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Prayer Room. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Salter (ksalter1122@gmail.com).

MEMBERSHIP

Our next 3-week Membership Class will begin Sunday, February 22 in the Prayer Room during both services. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

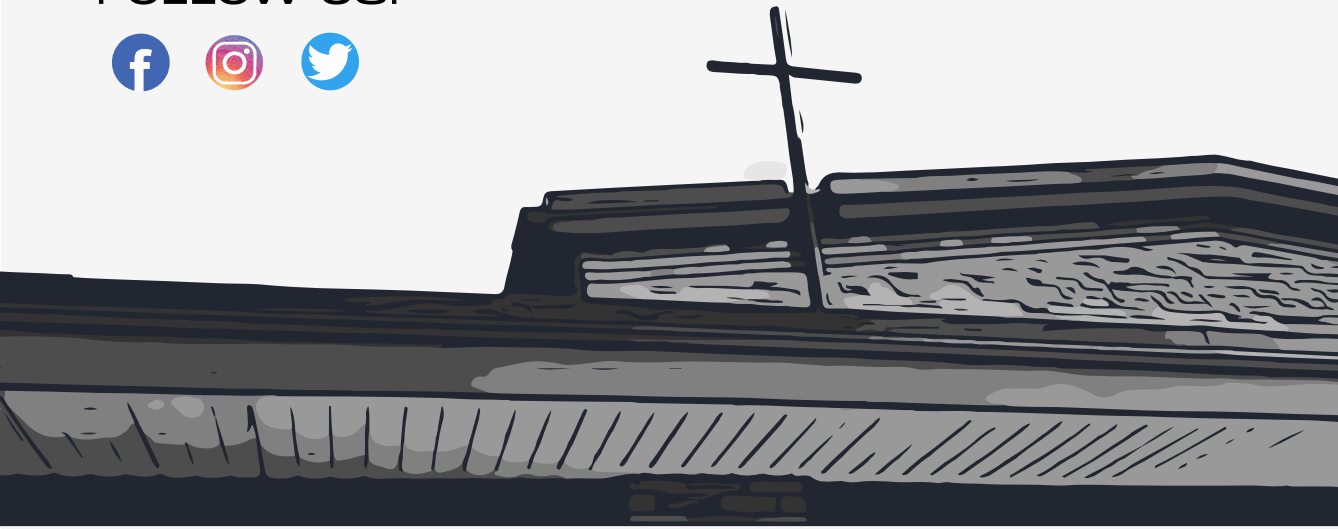
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Following Jesus on a Spiritual Battlefield

Colossians 1:12-14 and Colossians 2:13-15

Scripture Reading:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:10–13, ESV)

Introduction — Where Are We?

In the previous sermons in this series, we have seen that Jesus calls us to follow Him (Mark 1:17). He gives us the Holy Spirit to be with us and to dwell within us. Jesus has given us a new identity. He declares us forgiven, beloved, and sons and daughters of God. We are new creations in Christ. Yet He does not remove us from conflict; just the opposite – He trains our hands for war!

Our Enemies

The Three Enemies of the Christian Life

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (Ephesians 2:1–3, ESV)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us...raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” (Ephesians 2:4-6, ESV)

Before we were “in Christ,” we were under the power of the world, the Enemy, and our own sinful desires. But now Christ has saved us and raised us up with Him in the heavenly places. That has made us some terrible enemies!

Our Three Enemies: The World (external opposition), the Flesh (internal opposition), and the Devil (personal spiritual opposition).

We’ll mention all three, but focus today on the Devil, because in our circles he’s usually the most neglected in our discussions.

Who is the Enemy (Satan)?

The Enemy is a created being. The Lord Jesus said of him, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44, ESV)

The scriptures seem to describe him as a fallen angel. Revelation 12:7 says, “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,” (Revelation 12:7, ESV)

In Ezekiel 28, the Lord is rebuking the King of Tyre, but then moves to rebuke the evil spiritual force behind the King of Tyre who appears to be the Enemy (a fallen guardian cherubim):

“You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.” (Ezekiel 28:12–15, ESV)

Is the Enemy everywhere? No, he is a created being and is not omnipresent. He cannot be everywhere at once. The Scriptures describe his arrivals and departures. However, the Enemy has myriads of demons, and there are probably more than enough to attack every child of God.

Satan moves around. He appears and he departs. He’s not everywhere at once. “The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”” (Job 1:7, ESV)

Can the Enemy read our minds? No, the Enemy cannot read our minds. He is a created being and is not omniscient. Only God knows our thoughts. However, the Enemy and his demons have millennia of experience with human beings and know how to work us over.

God alone knows the inner thoughts and depths of human beings: “then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.” (1 Kings 8:39–40, ESV)

So, how does the Enemy work against us?

Deception, Accusation, and Temptation

The Tactics of the Enemy are Deception, Accusation, and Temptation (DAT)

Deception: A lie or distortion of God's truth designed to lead someone into believing what is false about God, themselves, or reality so that they act contrary to God's will and their own good.

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44, ESV)

The Enemy Distorts the Truth: "Did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:4)

The Enemy Outright Lies: "You will not surely die!" (Genesis 3:4)

The Enemy Twists and Misapplies Scripture: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written..." (Matthew 4:6)

The Enemy and his Servants Disguise Themselves as Good: "his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

The Enemy Blinds Minds to the Truth: "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Most deception is not dramatic. It sounds reasonable. Satan's deceptions aren't always obvious evil, but often appear as something good, helpful, or even spiritual.

Accusation: A charge or indictment that seeks to condemn rather than restore, undermining a believer's assurance of their standing before God by emphasizing guilt without pointing to the remedy already provided in Christ.

"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God." (Revelation 12:10, ESV)

The Enemy Accuses Us Day and Night Before God: "the accuser of our brothers...who accuses them day and night before our God." (Revelation 12:10)

He Accuses Us to Ourselves: "Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (Ephesians 6:16)

He Questions Our Standing and our Assurance: "If you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:1-10)

Satan's accusations bring condemnation and despair. His accusations are vague, crushing, and hopeless ("You're worthless, you'll never change").

Temptation is an appeal to satisfy our desires through ungodly methods or at inappropriate times, intended to lure us into sin and divert us from depending on God.

"For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world." (1 John 2:16, ESV)

1 John 2:26 gives us three broad categories of temptation used by the World System and the Enemy.

The Lust of the Flesh (Physical Appetites and Desires)

Seeking satisfaction through bodily and sensual means apart from God's design

Examples: sexual immorality, gluttony, drunkenness, comfort-seeking

The Lust of the Eyes (Material Desires and Covetousness)

Craving (coveting) what we see; desire to possess and accumulate

Examples: greed, materialism, envy, discontentment

The Pride of Life (Self-Exaltation and Independence from God)

Desire for status, exaltation, power, recognition; trusting in self rather than depending on God

Examples: arrogance, self-reliance, seeking human praise, presumption, independence from God

The Spirit's conviction is specific, corrective, and redemptive ("This action was wrong; confess and receive forgiveness" - 1 John 1:9)

In contrast to the work of the Enemy, the Holy Spirit never lies or misleads us. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins, it is not to condemn us but to be lovingly corrective and redemptive. The Holy Spirit never tempts us or leads us into evil for evil's sake. He may call us to go to hard places and face hard things, but every path He requires us to follow will eventually lead to green pastures and still waters.

The Weapons of Our Warfare

We resist the Enemy by standing in our present redemption in Christ, our present relationship with Christ, and our future glory with Christ.

"giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:12-14, ESV)

Through Jesus, the father has qualified us:

To be of the light, not of the darkness.

To be in the Kingdom of Jesus, not the domain of darkness.

To have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, not condemnation.

So, we stand as new creations, before the Enemy and we resist him, firm in our faith. Paul gives us seven more statements of our standing in Christ in Colossians 2:13-14:

"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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13-14, ESV)

I was dead, but Christ has made me alive

I was condemned, but Christ has forgiven me.

There was a record of every sinful thought, word, and action of mine, and it condemned me, but Christ has destroyed it.

The charges against me have been nailed to the cross by Jesus.

Jesus has disarmed the evil Powers and Authorities.

Christ has made a public spectacle (a mockery) of the evil powers and authorities on the cross.

Here's a practical walkthrough of how we can apply these truths when we suspect that we are being attacked:

Step 1: Pray. Ask God to show you what's going on. You don't need certainty, just a sense that something doesn't fit. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what you need to know.

What are some examples of when spiritual battle might be occurring?

When we have an unusually strong temptation, or powerful intrusive or ugly thoughts about ourselves or someone else.

When we have unexplained or disproportionate fear, anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, malice, despair, hopelessness, or other emotions that are out of control.

When we have an unusual sense of oppression, heaviness, or dread.

When we feel cold toward God, His Word, or His people, and our thoughts cast doubt on Him, attempt to drive us from Him, and keep us from talking to Him.

Step 2: Pick a Scripture. Choose a passage that speaks directly to your position in Christ, or something that declares truth over the lie or the pressure you're feeling.

Step 3: Say it out loud. Read or speak the passage aloud, not just quietly in your head. This is important. Jesus didn't think Scripture at Satan; He said it to him. You're not just reminding yourself. You're declaring truth in the face of the enemy. Say something like this:

"Satan, it is written, 'God made me alive together with him, having forgiven me all my trespasses.'"

Step 4: Command the Enemy directly to leave you. In a normal voice, say something like:

"Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to get away from me. You have no authority here. Christ has defeated you. Leave now."

That's it. No arguing. No discussion. No bravado. Command him to leave in Jesus name, and move on.

Step 5: Thank God and ask Him to fill you with the Spirit. Close by asking God to reveal anything in your life that might be giving the enemy an opportunity, and ask Him to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Application: Those of us who know the Lord, let us ask ourselves, "Whose voice am I listening to right now? Christ's word of forgiveness and victory, or voices of deception, accusation, or temptation?" What would it look like for you this week to respond to Jesus by trusting, speaking, and resting in what He has

done for you? And if we sense there is more than the world and the flesh in our battle, let us fight like Jesus and stand against the Enemy with the Word of God and the fact that we are children of God.

The Scriptures say there is a great divide in the physical and spiritual worlds. We are either of the darkness or of the light of Jesus. You will see that He is GOOD! If you don't know Him yet, come to Him for forgiveness! He will rescue you from the Enemy's domain of darkness and from your own darkness, and He will be with you forever.

Benediction

"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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13–14, ESV)



Following Jesus on a Spiritual Battlefield

1. What did you think of the sermon "Following Jesus on a Spiritual Battlefield"?

2. Paul reminds us that we have already been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Christ. Which truths about your identity in Christ do you most need to remember right now? How does forgetting affect the way you face temptation or discouragement?

3. The Enemy works through deception, accusation, and temptation. Which of these tactics do you most often experience in your own life? How can you tell the difference between the Enemy's accusations and the Holy Spirit's loving conviction?

4. Colossians 2 declares that Jesus canceled our debt, nailed it to the cross, and disarmed the powers and authorities. What fears, lies, or accusations feel "loud" in your life right now? How does Christ's finished work on the cross directly answer those voices?

5. Jesus resisted the Enemy by praying, speaking Scripture, and standing firmly in who He was. What might it look like for you this week to actively resist the Enemy using God's Word and prayer?

