



COLOSSIANS SERIES PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL PLAN

WEEK 6

Each week through this series, we are including five personal devotional readings followed by a couple of questions you can think on through the day. Monday is a day to set aside to read through the book of Colossians. The rest of the week we will look at two or three verses to contemplate more deeply and personally. We hope you enjoy digging into this important book over the next 10 weeks, and we pray God will use these short devotional questions to give you deeper insight and that through it, the gospel will be “bearing fruit and increasing” in you daily (Colossians 1:6).

Monday Reading: Read through Colossians in one sitting.

Devotional Question—What is something new that you picked up from your reading of Colossians this week? How can that thought be an encouragement throughout your day?

Tuesday Devotional: Read Colossians 3:1-2

Devotional Questions—What does it mean to be “raised with Christ” and why are we now able to seek the things of heaven over the things of the earth?

What are some earthly treasures you sometimes value over heavenly ones?

Wednesday Devotional: Read Colossians 3:3-4

Devotional Questions—In what sense have Christians died to their old life? In what ways have you died to your old life?

What do you think Paul means when he says, “Christ is your life?” How is life in Him better and how will it be even more so when He returns?

Thursday Devotional: Read Colossians 3:5-7

Devotional Questions—Are there any of these sins that you need to set aside?

How does your life in Christ both require and enable you to give these up?

Friday Devotional: Read Colossians 3:8-10

Devotional Questions—What are the sins you often struggle with when it comes to your relationship conflicts? Are they in the list of verse 8 and 9?

How does the image of God provide a better example for relational unity? (Think about the Trinity here.)





COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FROM 10/17/21

SERMON SUMMARY

Up to this point, Paul has been intentional to give his readers a deep awareness of who Jesus is and what He has done on their behalf. In last week's passage, he emphasized the redemptive work of Christ whereby He erased the debt of sin on behalf of those who believe in Him. In this week's passage, he challenges the believers to live with the reality of Christ's work in mind. If Jesus has secured forgiveness from sin and reconciliation with God through His death and resurrection, why should we who have received His free salvation live as though we still have to earn it? In Paul's mind, to submit oneself to a regiment of rules and regulations is contrary to the gospel and is ineffective in overcoming ongoing temptation from sin. He wants his readers to rest in the work of Jesus on their behalf and live a life of righteousness in response to that finished work.

Key Passage: Colossians 2:16-23

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone. *The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?

What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

The word "Therefore" at the beginning of verse 16 lets us know Paul's following words are based upon the previous passage. Re-read that passage and discuss what is true about Christians because of Jesus' work on our behalf. What is our position now before God?

Do you think in verses 16-17 that Paul is telling his readers to never have religious rituals, celebrations, or holidays? If not...what is his point?

What are some good practices the church uses to commemorate the work of Christ that can, sometimes, become more of the point than Jesus himself?

How have you seen religious activity by religious individuals become points of leverage or even abuse used to make others feel insignificant? How does Paul suggest we can prevent that?

How does verse 19 promote a strong sense of community within the church?

What are the "elemental spirits of the world" that Jesus died to? Is he speaking of the Jewish law?

In what ways can we as Christians be guilty of living out our beliefs in a law-like manner? How does that promote a "self-made religion?"

How does the religious system Paul speaks of fail to help stop the indulgence of the flesh? In his teaching, is Paul minimizing the importance of obedience to Christ and living righteously?

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

In what ways do you sometimes focus on your works of righteousness to earn God's favor?

Have you ever compared yourself to someone else when it comes to righteous living? In what way is that destructive?

