
Under the authority of Christ, we are becoming a community of Jesus-followers for the transformation of the world.

“Colossians: A Mid-Course Correction”

-Zack Esgar

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20, Colossians 3:1-11

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Meditation Moments for Monday, September 25 - Read Colossians 1:1-14 Have you ever been blessed by a total stranger before? It feels extra special when someone goes out of their way to bless us. The book of Colossians was written by Paul, from prison, to a church community he did not start, nor to our knowledge had ever visited. We learn in verse 7 that Epaphras, a convert of Paul, was the one to bring the Good News to the city of Colosse. For the church in Colosse, it had to have been such an encouragement to receive a letter from Paul and to hear about how much Paul prays for them, verse 9-14. It is encouraging to see Paul's heart for others and his devotion to praying for others he doesn't know. The first part of Colossians 1 gives us a great framework for how we can bless others and pray for them. Here is a great roadmap for how we can lift others up in prayer:

- Give thanks to God for others and their faith (v.3)
- Ask God to help them know his will (v. 9)
- Ask God to give them spiritual wisdom and understanding (v. 9)
- Ask God to give them strength, endurance, and patience (v. 10)
- Ask God to fill them with joy and thankfulness (v. 11, 12)

Challenge yourself as you go through the meditation moments each day this week to pray for others. Consider contacting them to encourage them just like Paul in his letter to the Colossians.

Prayer: Lord, help me to see the power of prayer this week. Grow in me a heart for others. Expand my prayer life this week. Help me to be an encouragement to others. Amen

Tuesday, September 26 - Read Colossians 1:15-23 Many of us were taught long division in school. Yet, asked today to use long division to solve a math problem.... many of us would have trouble. Paul writes his letter to the Colossians to point them back to the basics of the Christian faith. In his letter to the believers in Colosse, he combats false teachings and misunderstandings regarding who Jesus was, God's creation, and salvation. As you read today's scripture, may it help bring a deeper understanding and clearer view of the Christian faith.

- In verses 15-20, Paul combats the Colossians misunderstanding of the physical and spiritual world and the deity of Christ. False teachings had infiltrated the Colossians faith that matter was evil and the spirit is good. This led into beliefs that Jesus could not be both fully God/divine(good) and fully human(evil). False teachers also taught that Christ/God could not have created the world or be Lord over creation but only the spiritual world. Paul proclaims the truth about Christs deity (v. 15, 17, 18, 19)

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showing that: Jesus is not just human but God/divine, God created everything through him and for him, and being the creator of these things, he is Lord of them.

- In verses 20-23, Paul reminds the Colossians that salvation is found in Christ alone. False teachers taught that salvation could only be attained through a “secret knowledge” (Gnosticism) and through strict adherence to the law (asceticism). Paul continues to layout that salvation is found in Christ alone.

Prayer: *Lord, thank you for those in my life who have pointed me to you. Thank you that you are the creator of the heavens and earth. Thank you that I can know you through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Amen*

Wednesday, September 27 - Read Colossians 1:24-29 & Colossians 2:1-10 We all want to know what the secret sauce is. We all want to know what makes the brownies so delicious, what makes relationships easy, and parenting a breeze. Better than all these, Paul lets us in on the secret to life! ...Jesus (Col 1:25-29, Col 2:2-3). Paul then goes on to warn us that against false teachings that would pull us away from Jesus. Paul’s antidote to combat false teachings and being pulled away from Jesus is let our roots grow down into him, let our lives be built on him, and continue to follow him (v. 2:6-7). How can you better follow Jesus this week? How are you actively growing in your relationship with the Lord? How might you better build your entire life on Jesus?

Prayer: *Lord, show me how I can grow in my relationship with you. Help me to know your voice that I may be able to discern your truth from the lies of the world. I want to know you more. Amen*

Thursday, September 28 - Read Colossians 2:11-23 & Colossians 3:1-11 What an incredible reminder we read about in today’s scripture. We have been made new in Christ. The old is gone and the new has come (2:11-15). A great reminder for us today to walk in confidence in our faith, not because of what we have or haven’t done, but because of what Christ has done for us. Paul then continues in verses 2:16-23 combatting false teachings circulating through the church. False teachers were claiming that God was far away from man and could only be approached through levels of angels. This led people astray in thinking they had to worship angels in order to draw close to God (2:18). False teachers insisted that rules from other religions and philosophies to be strictly followed to really be saved. Paul doesn’t say that rules are bad, but that salvation is not based upon adherence to rules. Christianity focuses on the work of what Christ did on the cross for us (2:13-15) not on human effort (2:16-23). Paul continues to talk about our new life in Christ in chapter 3:1-11. Paul shows us in chapter 3 that our new way of living life should overflow from receiving new life in Christ. How have you experienced the new life Paul talks about in these verses? How has experiencing God’s love changed your life? How are your actions overflowing from your relationship with God?

Prayer: *Jesus, help me today to live as a new creation. My old life, actions, shame, and guilt have been nailed to the cross. Help me to put on my new nature and be renewed each day as I learn to know you more and become more like you. Amen*

Friday, September 29 - Read Colossians 3:12-25 & Colossians 4:1-6 Paul continues in these chapters to talk about how we are to respond to God’s grace and a new life in Christ. He talks about how our new lives should be filled with mercy, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, love, and gratefulness (3:12-17). It is because of what God has done for us that we gather to sing songs of thanks and praise. How can you better align your heart to give God praise and thanks throughout your week? At church? At your work place? In your home? Paul encourages us to make the most of every opportunity and to do everything as if we are doing it for the Lord (3:23). What does this look like for you this week to do everything you do as if we were doing it for the Lord? How does this play out in your home, work, school, community, and church?

Prayer: *Lord, help me to clothe myself today with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, love, and gratefulness. Help me to glorify you in every moment of my life. May my actions and words always be gracious and help lead others closer to you. Amen*

Saturday, September 30 - Read Colossians 4:7-18 (Not alone.) All throughout the book of Colossians, Paul lays out a theme of connections. Paul talks about how the Colossians are connected to the global world experiencing the same grace of God they did (1:6), how we are connected to God through a relationship with Christ (1:13–29), how he longs for believers to be “knit together by strong ties of love” (2:2), how are relationships, work, and everyday life should be connected to our faith (3:1-25), and how the Colossian believers are connected and cared for by other believers (4:7-18). Nobody likes to feel alone. Paul encourages the Colossians all through his letter, but especially in today’s verses, that they are not alone. Sometimes we can feel alone in our faith. Take a moment today to journal or think about all those who are there to support you in your faith. How might you grow that list? Is there a small group or are there relationships the Lord is calling you to foster? How might you be able to support and encourage others in their faith? What is the Lord calling you to do this week to encourage others and be encouraged personally by others? (*Message Notes and Meditation Moments for September 25-30, 2017*) For more, go to

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Prayer: *Lord, thank you that I am not alone. Thank you that I am able to be in relationship with you and other believers. Help me to be a connector. Help me to connect others in community that they may be encouraged in their faith. Help me to connect my faith with every aspect of my life. Amen*

Family/Community Activity for the week: This week's family activity is meant to help you as a family grow in your prayer life. Read through Monday's scripture (Colossians 1:1-14) and meditation moments together as a family. Brainstorm as a family the people you can pray for as a family this week. Write down ideas on a piece of paper of specific individuals, groups of people, areas effected by tragedy, leaders in your church/community, and anyone else you can think of to pray for. Next, stick this paper on your refrigerator as a reminder for the family to be in prayer for these other people or people groups throughout your week. At the end of the week, find some time as a family to reflect on your prayers for others and consider contacting someone from the list to encourage them just as Paul encouraged the Colossians with his letter.