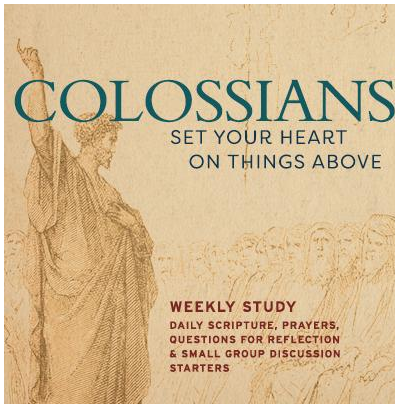




WEEKLY STUDY

Colossians - Week 7

In Colossians 3.1-4, Paul gives a command which is both inspiring and challenging. He said, “Set your hearts on things above.” When things get tough, we can easily lose track of the fact that this is even possible. If you find yourself looking for answers to personal or even global problems, Paul invites you to look up! May your week be filled with many reminders to set your heart on the things of God.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those who lead in all aspects of our lives. Pray that they may set their minds on the bigger things that God is doing and calling us to as his children.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.1-4 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- Paul's entire premise is that everything is found in Christ—including all wisdom. So if all wisdom is found in Christ, why pursue anything else? Where do you go for sources of wisdom and knowledge? Take a moment for an honest assessment of your sources of trusted truth. Are any of them something else other than Jesus? Reflect below.

- **Prayer Prompt: For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2.6)**
- *God, I want to be focused on the knowledge which comes from you. You give wisdom from your mouth. And from your mouth has come your Word...which is Jesus. I choose him over everything else. Amen.*

TUESDAY: PHILIPPIANS 4.8 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

- This is a list of what Paul considered to be wholesome thoughts. “Do you want to have wholesome thoughts? Well then think about what is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.” How often do you use this as a filter for your thoughts, words and actions? In the space below write down what you believe each of these 7 attributes are. What is noble? What is right? What is pure? What is lovely? Etc.

- **Prayer Prompt: Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. (Ephesians 4.25)**
- *Holy and merciful God, teach me to put off falsehood and to rely on your truth. I want to think about and reflect on the things that are right, pure, and lovely. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 26.1-3 (NIV)

*We have a strong city;
God makes salvation
its walls and ramparts.*

² *Open the gates
that the righteous nation may enter,
the nation that keeps faith.*

³ *You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.*

- This was written by the prophet Isaiah to be a song that would be sung by those redeemed when God's salvation came to earth. Could we not sing it today? What do you notice about the source of strength in the city? What would a "nation that keeps faith" look like today? What does it say about those who have a steadfast mind?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.7)**
- *God, you are my source of strength. In you I find my shelter and my peace. Increase my trust in you O Lord. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ROMANS 12.1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- *Paul had been proclaiming the mercy and compassion of God in his letter to the Romans. He wanted them to know that God's mercy (which he didn't have to offer) ought to lead to their own offering of their bodies and worship. In order to make that possible today, we need to tend to the transformation of our minds by the gospel over the patterns of this world. Would you say that your mind is more or less formed by the patterns of this world? In what ways are you seeking God's will for your life?*
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- **Prayer Prompt:** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2.2)
- *God, I want to crave pure nourishment from you. I confess that I often long for other things that this world offers. Free me and purify my desires that I may grow in your salvation. Amen.*

FRIDAY: HEBREWS 8.10 (NIV)

*This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.*

*I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.*

*I will be their God,
and they will be my people.*

- We are called to pursue an “inner inclination” towards God and God’s will. God wants this for us. God wants to put his law in our minds and hearts. The best promise of all is that God says to us, “I will be your God and you will be my people.” How does that promise form your day to day/ minute to minute thinking?

- **Prayer Prompt:** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.” (Jeremiah 31.31)
- *Almighty God, I want to live every moment of my life in this new covenant that you have made with me. You are my God and I am one of your beloved children. Thank you God. Amen.*

SATURDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 3.18 (NIV)

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- The shine on Moses’ face, after he met with God, would eventually fade away. But the glory given to those who follow Jesus is meant to increase as we are transformed more and more into his likeness. Have you ever witnessed this holy glow on the face of a fellow Jesus-follower? What was that experience like?

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- **Prayer Prompt: But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. (2 Corinthians 3.14)**
 - *God, thank you for removing the veil of separation between me and you. I repent of my own hiding. I am made to shine as a reflection of your glory. Shine in me today. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the questions below to guide your conversation.

1. Paul says to “set your hearts” and “set your minds” on things above (Colossians 3.1–2). What tends to capture your attention most easily in everyday life? How can you tell when something has begun to shape your heart or thinking more than Christ?
2. Read Colossians 2.13–15. Paul reminds us that Christ has forgiven our sins, canceled our debt, and disarmed the powers against us. Which part is easiest for you to lose sight of? How would remembering it change the way you approach a struggle you’re facing?
3. Paul warns about hollow and deceptive philosophy, idle notions, and things that have an “appearance of wisdom” (Colossians 2.8, 18, 23). What makes an idea sound wise or convincing even when it is not rooted in Christ? What helps you discern the difference?
4. The sermon described setting our hearts and minds on Christ as something we return to regularly. What practices help reorient you to what is true? Is there one source of distraction or information you may need to give less attention to so you can give more attention to Christ this week? How can we pray for you this week?