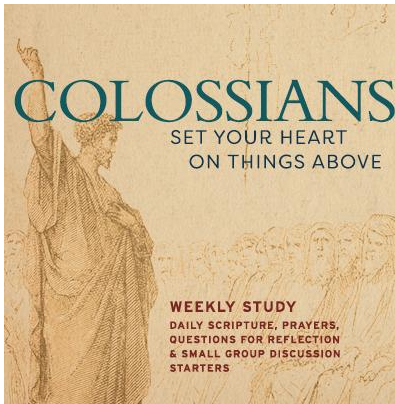




WEEKLY STUDY

Colossians - Week 9

In this week's study and prayer guide, we will focus on the same three verses from Colossians each day. Listen for the ways God is revealing new (or new again) messages of instruction and inspiration. May you begin to see your life as a billion opportunities to point to the Lord Jesus.

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 a spirit of letting the peace of Christ rule....in your own heart, in your home, in your community, in our nation, and in the hearts of people around the world.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- These verses are a continuation of Paul's instructions about the virtues of their new life in Christ. These are part of what it means to clothe yourself in Christ. The closer you get to Christ, the closer you are to the community of believers. Where are you spending time in the community of believers? How does the church promote your sense of gratitude?

- **Prayer Prompt: All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2.44)**
- *God, I thank you for the community of believers that you have placed in my life. Build me up for the role of encouraging others in their walk with Jesus. Amen.*

TUESDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Peace, which is God-given tranquility, is the thing that settles (rules) every debate within the community. The peace of Christ has the power to settle every conflict and argument. Why do we sometimes not allow it to play that role? It's almost as if we would rather fight than live in peace. How can we let the peace of Christ reign over our divisions?

- **Prayer Prompt:** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12.18)
- God, I know that you ARE community. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Teach me to live in community in a way that honors you. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- The new life Christians must “put on” is one in which the Word of Christ dwells richly. Literally, the words given to us in the Bible are meant to live in us. And when they live in us, they produce teaching, correction, wisdom and songs of worship. In the space below, list ways in which the Bible informs each of these areas.

Teaching- _____

Correction- _____

Wisdom- _____

Worship- _____

- **Prayer Prompt:** But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. (Romans 8.10)
- God, this life I am living is all too often focused on me. Forgive me and free to put on Christ and allow his message to live in me. Amen.

THURSDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- When the words of Christ dwell in you, there is a natural bubbling over. You break out into song as an expression of gratitude. How do you respond to the Word of God dwelling in you? Are there practices that keep you centered on the message of Christ that lives in you?

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- **Prayer Prompt: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. (Psalm 95.1)**
 - *God, you have poured into me, now may songs of praise and gratitude pour out of me! Amen.*

FRIDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- When we admonish one another, we draw on wisdom and we do it with a heart of love and gratitude. The word admonish can also be translated as “warn or exhort” You would warn someone who is in danger, and, in the church, we do this for one another in the context of a Christ-centered relationship. Whom in your life would you allow to admonish you? How do you respond to correction?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently (Galatians 6.1)**
- Merciful God, I thank you for the people in my life who help me to see what I can not see. Give me a heart of peace to receive and to share the truth with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- “Whatever one does...” God doesn’t allow us to segment our lives into “religious” and “secular”. There is no sacred-secular split in God’s eyes; He is Sovereign over all—whether in word or deed (by lip or life) Whatever we do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. Are there parts of your life that you tend to keep separate from your religious life? When could you be living a more integrated life?

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- **Prayer Prompt: Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. (Philippians 1.27)**
 - *God, I want my whole life to be lived for you. Reveal to me my own tendency to keep parts of my life from you and extend me grace as I strive to do it all in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the questions below to guide your conversation.

1. Jacob described part of Christian maturity as learning that we cannot control everything or always have our own way. Where do you see that struggle show up most often in everyday life? What makes letting go of control so difficult?
2. Paul says to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” Jacob compared the word *rule* to an umpire making the call. What might change if we allowed Christ to “make the call” instead of our emotions, fears, preferences, or need to be right?
3. Paul says to “let the message of Christ dwell among you richly.” What is the difference between knowing God’s Word and allowing it to “take up residence” in your life? What helps God’s truth stay with you and shape the way you think or respond?
4. Paul moves from two things we are told to “let” to one thing we are told to “do”: “whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Why do you think the “letting” comes before the “doing”? Where might that change the way you approach following Jesus?
5. Jacob suggested that if we come to something we cannot do “in the name of the Lord Jesus,” that may tell us something about whether we should be doing it at all. Where could that question, “Can I do this in the name of Jesus?”, be helpful in the ordinary decisions, words, or habits of our lives? How can we pray for you this week?