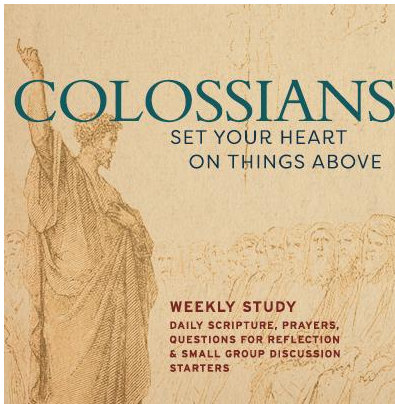




WEEKLY STUDY

Colossians - Week 6

This week Pastor Garrett taught about what it means to be rooted in Christ. Be encouraged as you pray and study Paul's words that help us to stay anchored in what is true and good and beautiful!

For those of you continuing to pray through the Psalms daily, you will read Psalms 148-150 this week. Congrats! Let me know how God has been speaking to you through daily prayer with the Psalms. Do you plan to continue this practice?

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 someone who feels like they are not firmly rooted in their life. Pray that they would find their anchor in Christ and receive the nourishment he provides for us through the Holy Spirit.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: COLOSSIANS 2.6-10 (NIV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

- Paul continued in his defense against false teaching that was impacting the church. The hearts of many people had already been freed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and he was compelled to warn them against the captivity threatened by untrue teachings. What are some examples of “hollow and deceptive philosophies” that you have heard in the world around you? How do you combat such voices?

- **Prayer Prompt: They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. (Jude 1.12b-13)**
- *God, guard my heart and mind from any teaching that leads me away from Christ. You are my strength and my Defender. Amen.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 8.31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Being rooted in Christ means being rooted in the truth. We are made for freedom in Christ, so to remain rooted in him (even allowing ourselves to be bound to him) means that we can live a kind of freedom regardless of our challenges and circumstances. Reflect on what it means to be bound to Christ and free in Christ.

- **Prayer Prompt: But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (Romans 6.22)**
- *Lord God, your holiness prevails over every impurity that I face. Set me free to joyfully serve you! Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 8.5-8, 15 (NIV)

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

...the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

- Here in Middle Tennessee it's been real hot and real dry. A lot of the ground looks more like a path than good soil. It will rain, and we can clear out the thorns so that good soil can be found for planting. Jesus explained his parable about the sower by saying that a noble and good heart is good soil for the word of God. He said we have to hear it, retain it, and persevere towards a good crop. How do you assess the condition of your heart to receive the word?

- **Prayer Prompt: "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10.8-9)**
- *God, put your word in my heart. I will pay attention to the condition of my heart so that the seed may go deep into good soil and bear much fruit for your glory. Amen.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 1.4, 8.12 (NIV)

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

- *Jesus is the light of the world. He brought light to dispel the darkness so that all mankind could participate in his life. Like a young plant, we need light to grow. We need to bask in the radiance of Jesus as the darkness fails to overcome his light. If we follow him will never be trapped in darkness. What is your pattern for sitting in the light of Christ?*

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- **Prayer Prompt: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4.6)**
 - *Jesus, you are the light of the world. If it weren’t for you, I’d be lost in darkness. I want to live every moment in the light of your life. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 7.38-39 (NIV)

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

- We need water to guard against spiritual dryness, and God desires for the living water to flow through us with the power of His Spirit. The Bible is full of images of living water creating a source for life and for nourishment. Where are the places you tend to go in order to “sit by the waters”?
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- **Prayer Prompt: For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants. (Isaiah 44.3)**
- *Almighty God, may I be like a tree planted by the streams of your water, yielding fruit in season, and never withering like a falling leaf. Sustain me and grow me Lord. Amen.*

SATURDAY: COLOSSIANS 2.13-15 (NIV)

¹³ *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,* ¹⁴ *having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.* ¹⁵ *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- Pastor Garrett emphasized that we can be rooted in assurance. Even in seasons of little rain, our roots grow deep in Jesus allowing us to maintain our connection with Jesus who forgave our sin and set us free to thrive. What or who helps you to remain rooted in assurance that Jesus Christ has done everything you need for a life free of guilt and sin?

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- **Prayer Prompt: The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8.16-17)**
 - *God, I know that Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers and authorities of this world, and he forgave my sins. May your Spirit testify to my spirit all day long. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the questions below to guide your conversation.

1. Paul calls us to be “rooted and built up” in Christ (Colossians 2.6–7). When life feels unsettled, what do you tend to turn to for stability? What helps you turn to Jesus in those moments?
2. Read Colossians 2.8. What messages around us make it easy to believe we need something more than Christ to have a full life? How can we recognize when those messages are shaping our thinking?
3. Growing in Christ involves receiving his word, spending time in his presence, and depending on the Holy Spirit. Which of these needs more attention in your life right now? What would giving it that attention look like this week?
4. Read Colossians 2.13–15. How does knowing that Christ has forgiven your sins and canceled your debt affect the way you approach God when you fall short? How can we encourage and pray for you this week?