



MONDAY 10 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:12 & Galatians 5:22-23

Plug In...

Colossians 3:9-11 concludes that in Christ there is a new human. A human without any of the breakdown and distinctions caused by the fall and subsequent sin ([Genesis 3](#) and [Genesis 11:1-9](#)). The call for the church – God’s holy people, chosen and dearly loved – is to look like this ultimate human Christ.

Chew It Over...

What of these virtues need to be brought to life? What has been going on lately in your attitudes and actions that is the opposite of these? Put them to death.

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God for His church. Praise Him for the mercy that while we have sinful attitudes and actions to put to death, and proper human actions to embrace and cultivate, we are considered holy, dearly loved.



TUESDAY 11 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:13 & Matthew 18:21-25

Plug In...

Commanded to forgive others. The reason is: *forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Chew It Over...

Easy to forgive little things. Seriously hard to forgive those very painful hurts – ‘Doesn’t Jesus know how much I’ve been hurt, abused, betrayed?’

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

[Matthew 18:21-25](#). This interaction about forgiveness that Peter has with Jesus has been explained as the parable of unlimited downloads.

Prayer Suggestion

Forgive me Lord. Forgive me for withholding forgiveness. Help me to forgive.



WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:14 & Romans 13:8-10

Plug In...

Love binds all these 'to do' and 'don't do' actions and attitudes.

[Romans 13:10](#) – *Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law.*

Chew It Over...

The New Testament speaks to us because we are hurting and harming people. We do it to those in our families, we do it to those in our community, we do it to those in the church. We are hurting and harming as Christians.

Indeed, we are a 'new' person. Indeed, we are Christians – that cannot be shaken. But we are *becoming* our final state – the image of Christ. Therefore, put to death all these anti-love things we are doing: sexual immorality; stealing; lying; outrage; gossip; lust; anger; withholding forgiveness; being rough and harsh with people; arrogant; demanding our rights while denying others.

Prayer Suggestion

Lord I've looked into the mirror of your Word. Oh, this is I! Run love through me; through my entire life and all my relationships for I am no longer the old person, I am in Christ.



THURSDAY 13 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:15-16

Plug In...

The community of believers are formed by the peace of Christ. That is, the harmony of a world put right exists between Christians. This is cultivated by the gospel message of Christ. It is taught. It is encouraged. It is sung about. In the centre of our hearts, in the centre of the Christian community is gratitude (lit. grace).

Chew It Over...

The word used for 'rule' here is a word used in the Greek sporting games. The umpire's decision in every case, with every problem, with every wondering, is Christ's rule. How does Christ do it, what do we now do?

Suspended in the heart of every Christian is the song of grace. It needs to be suspended in the community of the church. We are a grace-dependant community. How do you cultivate this in your church family? This is more than walking into church with a smile. What are the habits, rituals, rhythms that you engage in, promote?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord for help to lean into your grace-dependant community.



FRIDAY 14 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:17 & Psalm 100

Plug In...

Paul places here a test for growth and maturity in Christ. As the 'new' person heads towards their final state they increasingly align with Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through Him.

Chew It Over...

Are you highly thankful? We need to close the gap between theory and practice. We are only thankful if we do thankfulness. We might load up with lots of information or list dot points of all the things to be 'thankful for'. But that is just information in the head – and it is good to have right information. But what do you believe in your heart? This axiom shows what is in our heart: *what the church prays for the church believes.*

Prayer Suggestion

Here's a short psalm providing language for thankfulness – [Psalm 100](#).



WEEKEND 15-16 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 3:5-17

Chew It Over...

We have seen in this passage the truth that in some way we have been included in the resurrection with Christ and that will be on show for all in the future. We are not a mixture of 'old' person with value-added 'new' person. We are *in Christ*, therefore, transferred to be a 'new' person. Although we die there is a pulse of life from Christ that runs through us that will not die out. It is a resurrection pulse, such that we are considered 'resurrected with Christ'. This pulse grows into resurrection beyond the grave where our bodies will lurch up to a perfect, irreversible, eternal existence. Now, the pulse of resurrection feeds to us now all the ways of living that belong to the new creational life.

It is this truth that makes it possible for Christians, unlike any other type of human being, to put sin to death.

Don't let this be glossed over lightly. There is real killing-off of sin to do. Allow again this part of God's Word to press in under our minds down to our hearts. Find out what you really love and have been chasing. Bring all parts of your life, actions, attitudes into submission to the lordship of Christ.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord that you live this way, in light of heaven and the future resurrection, daily.