



WEEK 5: SPIRITUAL FULLNESS IN CHRIST | FEBRUARY 8

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for being with us during our gathering as a community today. May we strive to grow in faith both individually and together. We ask that you bless this time of learning and fellowship, as we read Colossians.

Thank you for the gift of today and of this small group study. Amen.

COMMUNITY

Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!

- + What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?
- + If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at <https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/>)
- + Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

VIDEO – WEEK 5
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES

SCRIPTURE

A great starting place is always in God's word. This week we are in:

COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

⁶ 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. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

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.

Freedom From Human Rules

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in

false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹ They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²² These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

SITUATION

Paul tries to communicate as purposely as possible when it comes to telling the young churches of early believers about the way to follow Jesus. Often, he contrasts this by describing what they should avoid!

He is not afraid to call out the “hollow” alternatives that this world has to offer. Instead, like any good teacher, he provides helpful guiding principles to follow so that they may live effectively and embrace their faith. One of the common phrases the church uses is “IN Christ”. In verse 6, Paul uses the word “in”, not “with”. Sometimes we say it without even giving it a second thought! But what does it really mean to find our identity “in” Jesus?

Each of us has the capacity to decide in who we will place our true hope. We make decisions every day to determine where we make our home and with whom we are at home. Paul writes to the Colossians urging them to realize that Jesus desires their true, real, deep faith IN him. This is true because of God’s great love for us.

QUESTIONS:

One of the key reasons it seems Colossae is being addressed is to encourage them to keep going in the right direction of their faith.

- + Why is Paul so concerned with hollow or deceptive arguments?

- + What do you think these alternative persuasions might have been in his day and location?

Any parent knows that it is important to guide your children as to what should be avoided.

- + Why does Paul take this approach with the young early churches?
- + How do you think people responded to these teachings?

How do you see the connection between the Church today and these founding churches?

GROWTH:

JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

CALLING PROMPT

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.