



## WEEK 6: ALIVE IN CHRIST | FEBRUARY 15

### 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 6**  
**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES**

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**SCRIPTURE**

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

**COLOSSIANS 3:1-11**

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

*<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

**COLOSSIANS 3: 18-25**

*<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

*<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

*<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

*<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

<sup>22</sup> *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.* <sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* <sup>24</sup> *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* <sup>25</sup> *Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.*

## SITUATION

Paul gives a very clear picture of how humans are both in the world, but are meaning to live in a new way! This framing is all over the third chapter of Colossians, when he describes the type of transformation that is expected of those who follow Jesus. Followers of Christ are not meant to be satisfied with the status quo of this world, but instead look for ways to embody their faith in every moment. When is the last time you looked for Christ in the eyes of someone who were with? A friend, a coworker, a stranger, a spouse, a child. As we embark upon this new year, let us take time to move from our old ways into a new rhythm of serving others, loving them faithfully, and acknowledging where we see Christ at work daily.

The household codes gain a lot of attention from a variety of theological angles. As Wesleyans, we believe that what is most important is understanding the macro approach to the Christian way of life – which is that we should support, honor, love each other selflessly.

## QUESTIONS:

### **What does Paul mean on setting your hearts on “things above”?**

- + Is this easy or difficult to do?
- + How might we do this in our current lifestyle?
- + What spiritual habits might we develop to put this into practice?

## Reflect on Colossians 3:3-4.

- + What do you think it means to be “hidden in Christ” and “appear in glory”?

## In Genesis, we learn that work is good and given by God. How does Paul describe work in the New Testament?

- + What stands out to you about this verse?
- + *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”*

### 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.