



WEEK 7: THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST | FEBRUARY 22

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 7
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES

SCRIPTURE

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

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

*¹⁵ 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.***

COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

*² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** ⁶ **Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.***

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ **Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.** ¹⁵ **Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.**

¹⁶ **After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.**

¹⁷ **Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”**

¹⁸ **I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.**

SITUATION

Paul concludes his letter by describing the virtues that ought to mark out those who follow Jesus. This is a familiar teaching and is accompanied by a list of his friends in ministry who are working to embody these virtues as they lead their own growing churches. As we read Paul's letter to Colossae, remember this was written to real people in real places. May we acknowledge the reality of Paul's ministry of the gospel of Jesus and be inspired by the lengths he went to in order to spread the message of hope.

QUESTIONS:

What virtues does Paul say are important to the Christian life?

- + Which of them is supreme?

Why is it important to specifically use Jesus' name when giving thanks?

Have you ever thought of the good news of Jesus being spread because of an "open door" (4:2)?

- + Where is a current open door in your friend group or family that you might be able to share the good news of Jesus?

Consider all that you have learned in Paul's letter as it concludes. What do you notice about his ending words?

- + How do the greetings and last sentences reflect the reality of the letter?

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.