

THE NEW YOU

LIVING THE LIFE YOU WERE CREATED TO LIVE

ada bible church

We are so excited you are joining us for our fall series.

**THE NEW YOU:
LIVING THE LIFE YOU WERE CREATED TO LIVE**

Our hope is that this journal will help you to remember and return to the truths you discover during the series. Please bring this journal each time you join us during one of our weekend experiences.

WHAT DOES A
NEW LIFE IN
JESUS LOOK
LIKE? FEEL LIKE?
HOW DO WE
GROW IN HIM?
WILL IT CHANGE
US COMPLETELY?
DO WE EVEN
WANT IT TO?

LIFE IN COLOSSAE

Imagine living in ancient Colossae, a bustling city in the Roman Empire. You step out of your door and look off to the distance, eyes raised to the snowcapped Mount Cadmus. The water that streams from that mountain runs cool and clean, nourishing your crops and refreshing your thirst. You can't help but think of the refreshing and nourishing teaching you hear when you gather with other Christ believers. The Way of Jesus is new to your city, its roots still stretching their way into your lives.

Turning your face, you look to your crop. You see the wheat you planted at the beginning of the growing season. Your hands are calloused by the work of pulling weeds, your arms muscled from carrying water to wet the soil, your storehouse prepared to receive what your land yields.

As much as you desire a good harvest, you know that the Lord longs to see a good fruit from you and from the others in your church. Once again, you close your eyes. You pray with thanksgiving, you pray with joy. And you pray that the Almighty might set your roots firm and deep and that He might grow your faith to the full.

You watch the traveling traders making their way on the highway that cuts through your city. They carry not only goods from all corners of the Empire, but also intriguing beliefs and thoughts, teachings and philosophies that easily mix into a stew of superstition and mythology.



Closing your eyes, you consider how these captivating philosophies might threaten growing faith. You pray with hope, believing that the Creator God is good and attentive. You have faith in His work to strengthen your life and those of other believers in your community.

Setting out for a gathering of believers, you smile, glad to be meeting with your new brothers and sisters in Christ. Your hearts will be moved to gratitude by the singing of songs and the breaking of bread. But most of all, your faith will deepen, expand, thicken with the reading of a letter of hope, of new life, of possibility.

It's a letter penned by a man who knew of a life transformed.

SAUL TO PAUL

Saul once made it his business to hunt Jesus followers. He sought them out, arrested them, thought nothing of holding the cloaks of those who stoned church leaders to death. Saul's life was one of judgment, violence, and power.

So occupied with stalking Christians, Saul wasn't pursuing a new life. But that didn't keep a new life from finding him.

While on his way to the city of Damascus on a mission against the Church, Saul was forced to stop in the middle of the road. He was blinded by a flash of light and the resurrected Jesus called him to a life renewed.

Christ changed Saul's heart, his faith, and even his name. Saul the persecutor became Paul the missionary.

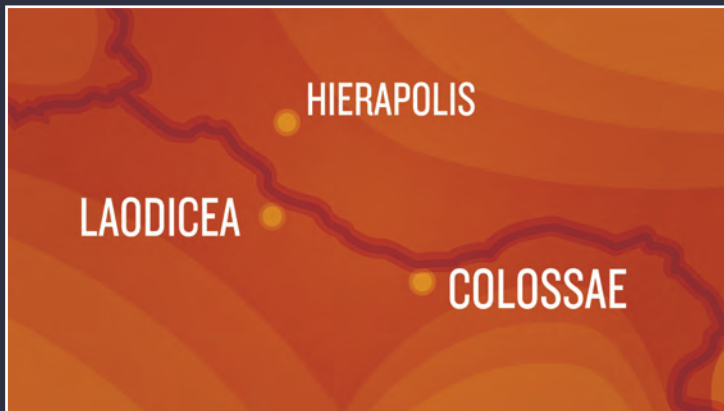
Paul's new life became one of preaching and teaching, of church planting and nourishing. He traveled from one city to the next, spreading the message of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. This message of hope was received with joy by many, with resistance by others.



Paul suffered beatings, shipwrecks, and imprisonment. Such hardship might have proven a threat to not only his ministry but his faith in Christ. But being deeply rooted in the Jesus Way, the adversity only served to strengthen Paul's resolve. He still taught through physical suffering, continued preaching through threat of violence, and never stopped encouraging those with newly planted faith.

Even while imprisoned, Paul persevered. He wrote letter after letter to the churches spread all around the Roman world. We have several of those letters still today. His words to the churches still encourage, inspire, and bolster our faith nearly two thousand years later.

The letter to the Colossians is unique in that Paul was not a planter of that church. In fact, he'd never even visited. His primary connection with the congregation was Epaphras, a native-born Colossian who Paul had met while ministering to the people in Ephesus. Still, he cared enough to send Epaphras back to his hometown to spread the Good News of Jesus and to write to the Colossians as well as to the church in Laodicea. He encouraged them to share letters between the congregations as they were mere miles apart.



Paul's are words of grace, humility, gratitude, and renewed life. He offered caution of the threats that lurked in the shadows, ready to tear apart the faith of those new Christians and the hope of a God who cares for His children. Paul inspired those in Colossae to allow their new found life to impact their relationships, their work, and their priorities.

Paul's hope was that the Colossians would put their faith in Christ alone. That they would allow Him to work in all corners of their lives. His desire was for them to be firmly planted and nurtured in their faith so theirs would be a fruitful harvest.

TODAY

We are nearly two thousand years removed from those early Christians and we live halfway around the world from the ruins of their city. Our days are filled with different demands, other stresses. Still, we have much to learn from unpacking Paul's letter to the Colossians.

We may just see that their condition is ours. What threatened their faith could very well pose a danger to ours. But, even more so, what encouraged their faith can bolster ours. What grew in them a good fruit can do the same for us. And, so doing, we can discover a "life worthy of the Lord".

We can thrive in the life we were created to live.

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14

1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we

have not stopped praying for you.

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.





What statements, images or illustrations challenged or encouraged you from this weekend's sermon?



What important conversations do you need to have in your small group this week around this content?



When you invite God into your days, what prayers do you need to offer him this week? Praise - Confess - Ask.

COLOSSIANS 1:24 – 2:5

1:24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend

with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

2:1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.



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COLOSSIANS 2:6 - 15

2:6 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.



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COLOSSIANS 3:1 - 11

3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is

coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.



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COLOSSIANS 3:12 - 16

3:12 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.



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COLOSSIANS 3:22 - 4:1

3:22 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. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.





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COLOSSIANS 4:7 - 18

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.



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