

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 18:17-33

Psalm 138 *Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.* (v8)

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, & you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, & give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Colossians 2:6-15

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted & built up in him & established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy & empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, & not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ & you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule & authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ & you, who were dead in your trespasses & the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do *Romans 2:12-29* (cf. *Genesis 17:1-9*), *4:11*, *6:1-11* add to vv11-13? See also *Philippians 3:3*
2. How does v14 connect with *Luke 11:4*? See [Small Catechism: Lord's Prayer](http://bookofconcord.org) available bookofconcord.org

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Vv1-5, 8, 16, 18, 21, 23 add a brief description of things with which the opponents & heretics in Colossae subverted the gospel & the apostolic teaching (cf. *Luke 24:44-48*; *Acts 1:1-3*). How have you been tempted away from the clear gospel (cf. vv12-13) into thinking or acting as if something else **really** matters about being a Christian? Consider things including particular behaviors or feelings, certain worship practices, secondary or tertiary doctrines, a memorable teaching from someone, a specific experience, loyalty to someone/thing
4. Read the whole story of Sodom & Gomorrah, *Genesis 13, 14, 19*. (Don't read backwards into the text today's "battle of the sexes" or "inclusivity.") How does *19:6-9* show the total depravity & unrepentance of the cities? (BTW, what prior mercy/rescue is shown to Sodom in *14:14-24*?) What does *13:10-11* add to Lot's hesitancy to leave? When have you found yourself unwilling to separate from objectively bad circumstances because you liked some secondary thing about it, or were spared once before?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Certainly, Christians have "rules, boundaries, & limitations" on proper & godly behavior. How do you explain to a pre-Christian that the center, the heart, of the faith is receiving forgiveness in Jesus' name (cf. vv13-12)? See [SC: Creed](#)
6. Recall *Psalms 20:7, 33:17, 146:3-4, 147:10-11*. V15 tells us that God defeats **every** power & authority that is not his. How can you share this comfort with others in turbulent times?

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 12

07.27.25

Series: The Good Life

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Life finds joy & hope today, but fulfillment in eternity

Rooted in Jesus

From root to fruit, it's all Jesus

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: So walk in [Christ Jesus the Lord], rooted & built up in him
& established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving. (v7)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Ask, & it will be given you; search, & you will find;
knock, & the door will be opened to you. (Luke 11:9)

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