

Barnsley Baptist Church

CONNECT

God's word for the Five Day week

September 2016

Connect to Colossians and see Jesus Lord of all.

Thursday 1st September

2.vv 6-7 Coming to know Christ as Lord was the start of a whole new way of life. No one is as keen as a convert. Everything is new and exciting. It is one thing to start on a new journey with Christ, but it is another thing to keep going. It needs depth(being rooted) and stability (being built on a sure foundation.) It needs constant exercise (to be strengthened in faith.) if we do not make progress we will regress.

Friday 2nd September

2.vv 8. So often the lines of a hymn give us a real help in understanding a verse of Scripture. We could sum up this verse by simply saying, 'On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.' If you have ever stood at the edge of an ocean you will have felt the pull of the tide, as its undertow draws the sand from under your feet and you start to be pulled down. Time to get on to firmer ground!

Monday 5th September

2.v.9. We always interpret one part of the bible in the light of the whole of `scripture. When we hear that all the fullness of God is found in Christ, we find the same truth in the great introduction to John's Gospel. John 1.v.1 The Word was made flesh. And then again in Philippians 2.v.6-11. Not to mention the verses we have already shared in Colossians 1.vv 15-20. **We might say in Jesus God has made room for Himself on earth.**

Tuesday 6th September

2.Vv.910 You have been given fullness in Christ. An old commentator puts it like this, 'You have in and from him every thing necessary to your salvation, all the wisdom and knowledge, the righteousness and strength, the holiness, support, and comfort that you stand in need of, to enable you to glorify God on earth, and to prepare you for being glorified with him in heaven.' Precisely!

Wednesday 7th September.

2.Vv. 11-12. We often describe a person behaving in an unexpected way as having had a change of heart. It is not through our effort or decision making, but through the power of Christ that we, as believers have our change of heart, to which we have testified in our experience of union with Christ, in baptism into His death and resurrection.

Tuesday 13th September

Thursday 8th September

2 Vv 13-14. Here is the heart of our transformation. We were spiritually dead-unresponsive, lifeless and unable to react to the things of God, but in a miracle of mercy God made us alive with Christ (Eph 2.4.) A brand new life is the totally amazing gift God gives in Christ. (2. Cor. 5.17.) See also Galatians (2.v.20.)

Friday 9th September.

2.v.14. Grace is free but it is never cheap. We must never minimize the cost of our forgiveness, nor must we ever forget how complete it is. He forgave all our sins at Calvary. There is nothing that the death of Christ cannot cover. The charge sheet that stood against us was nailed to the cross and written right across it was three words. 'Forgiven and Freed.' Hallelujah.

Monday 12th September

2.v.15. We must never minimise the scale Of Christ's victory. If it is true, as Paul says in Eph 6.10 that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms, it is even more true that the Lord Jesus has triumphed over them in the Cross. They are not finally in control. Christ is Lord over all and Lord above all.

2. Vv 16-23. We must keep hold of the fact that faith is a living relationship not a list of regulations. It is not running after speculative ideas that lead to nothing but confusion. Some Christians have given up faith to pursue new age ideas, but have only landed up with unending old heartaches and headaches. We should always keep a firm grip on Christ and trust His firm grasp of us.

Wednesday 14th September

3.VV. 1-3. Having new life in Christ means staying focused on Him, on His authority and rule. Sometimes there is a rather cruel criticism that is made of people who are very zealous in matters of faith. With a cynical dismissal of some it is said 'He (or she), is too heavenly minded to be any earthly good' But seriously, the people who fix their eyes on Jesus (Heb 12.v.2) are usually the most down to earth people who want to see real transformation in people and in society.

Thursday 15th September

3. V 4. Our Christ who is Risen, Our Christ who is Reigning, is the Christ who is returning, and when He does come He will gather His own to Himself. Faith in Him is never misplaced, and genuine faith 'will result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.' Even now, though we have not seen Him we love Him, and we believe in Him, and we are filled with inexpressible joy..... 1. Pet. 1 vv3-11.)

Friday 16th September

3.Vv 5-10. The Christian life has one constant action. It is a matter of taking off and putting on. It is a daily dying to an old way of life and a rising to new life. The pattern never varies. There is a daily It is constantly discipline involved in the Christian life. It is reckoning, counting ourselves, dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ Jesus. It is offer ourselves to God and not to the service of sin. (Romans 6. Vv.11-14.)

NOTES

Connect to Colossians

Monday 19th September

3.v.11. What do we fear most in our relationships with other people? We fear difference. The barriers that separate people and cause suspicion are those of ethnicity, status, religion, classification. These dividing walls have been breached, have been broken by Christ who frees and unites all believers as One body. He calls to Himself people out of every nation under heaven and enables us all to make the one confession. Jesus Christ is Lord.

Tuesday 20th September

3.v.12. In Romans 13. 14 the apostle Paul says that the way to avoid giving in to the desires of our lower nature is to 'clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.' If we ask the question what does this mean? What would it look like to be clothed in Christ? We have the answer right here in this verse It means putting on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Wednesday 21st September

3.v.13 Bearing with one another is so much more than just putting up with people. It is developing a relationship that is genuine, that has no grudge bearing, no harbouring of unworthy thoughts, or nursing hurts. It is a relationship of mutual forgiveness, which is an evidence that the command of Jesus to love one another is one we have heard, understood and must be embraced.

Thursday 22nd September

3.V.14. Of all the virtues, the greatest is love. Like a cord that binds and ties things together, love, which as scripture says, covers a multitude of sins. Love is powerful and practical. When we were learning our grammar at school, we were told that verbs are 'doing' words. Love can be a verb (also a noun). It is a call to action which we can never ignore.

Friday 23rd September

3.v15. Churches are often described in terms of their programmes. An active church, a busy church, an involved church, a missionary minded church. How often have we heard a church described as a peaceful church. Too often churches are marked and marred by factions and strife. A broken world, full of hurting people needs a church in which the peace of Christ is present, bringing the healing and hope that only He can establish in the human heart. We are called to peace, are we living in peace with God and with each other?

Wednesday 28th September

Monday 26th September

3. Vv 15-17. Gratitude, growth and joy. These should be the dynamics that are obvious in our fellowship and worship. Learning and living together, helping and encouraging one another,- these are the essentials in worship, as they are indicators of our true thanksgiving for all God has done and is doing with our lives. A church in Cambridge has prayer mats which said to the worshippers as they knelt. "Think and Thank."

Tuesday 27th September

3.Vv 18-19. The clue to the understanding and application of these verses together with their expanded version in Ephesians 4.22ff, lies in the fact that marriage relationships, are relationships of mutual submission based on the pattern of Christ's relationship with the church. There is in Christ the example of Headship, but it is a headship based on sacrificial love. The church freely and gladly submits to Christ because she is totally secure in His love. It is out of reverence for Christ and following His example of self-giving that a wife comes under the headship of her husband but in no sense is she subservient. The husband exercises leadership not lordship

3.V .20. Obedience is not something that can be demanded of children. It is something that has to be taught. A recent observation of parents trying to control a child running amok in a restaurant, by shouting to him at a distance was a live demonstration of failure in parental control. The children of Christian parents have to learn to honour their father and their mother, and if this teaching is not given, then there will be little hope and little harmony in family life. If parents are pleasing the Lord, they will be training their children to do the same.

Thursday 29th September

3.V.21 To many young people are lost to Christ and the Church, through being subject to authoritarian even tyrannical and unreasonable treatment by fathers. Being made to do something without being encouraged to understand why it is necessary, can cause seething resentment that breaks out in bitter rebellion, even vows to have nothing to do with a father's faith. Taking time and trouble to build good communication, and having time to appreciate and enjoy the company of a child will pay great dividends. A child needs to see faith in action. Hypocrisy will be shot down in flames by a child.