

Living A Resurrected Life

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A Resurrected Life Bears Fruit!

Colossians 1:1-23

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

How should Christians approach the idea of removing old habits of sin from their lives and embracing the changes needed to live the holy life we are called to? The answer to these questions can be found behind the text of Colossians 2:20-23. Read that now.

The approach of the false teachers was to make yourself live a holy life by "white knuckling" it. In other words, following God's commandments must be done all by your own strength. It's viewed as a tough, uphill climb, fighting against yourself and your desires the whole way. It's onerous and arduous (not very appealing or joyful), and Paul reveals that in the end that kind of mindset has "no value against fleshly indulgence."

What's the alternative? Starting from the mindset of freedom and victory in Christ! Read Romans 6:12-14. The Christian is already a victor because of Jesus' sacrifice. Being "made alive," Christians live by the truth that they're no longer that person enslaved to sin. Rather, they have Holy Spirit in them to supply the power for a holy life!

Weekly Memory Verse:

"He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross."

Weekly Affirmation:

IN CHRIST I'M FREE!
I'M COMPLETE! I'M ALIVE!

Colossians 2:14

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Colossians 2:1-5. An athlete, a soldier, and a lawyer walk into a bar... What do these occupations have in common for the Christian? Paul uses vocabulary from these three fields within this section of his letter. First, Paul "struggles" in prayer (v.1). This is the Greek word, *agon*, from which we get *agonize* in English. It's used to describe how an athlete strives physically and mentally to defeat their opponent. Second, Paul prays that Christians will remain "knit together" (v.2). This is military language to describe soldiers who defend and encourage one another to resist retreat. Third, Paul prays that Christians not be deceived by "persuasive arguments" (v.4). This is courtroom language where a smooth-talking lawyer makes wrong appear right and bad look good. Prayerfully look for these attributes in your walk with God. Be ready to "agonize" in prayer for others, lock arms in life with your brothers and sisters to keep them moving forward, and know God's truth so well as to recognize the lies of false teaching.

FOR CHILDREN:

Read Colossians 2:1-5. The apostle Paul was far away from the Christians in Colossae, and a lot of them he had never met. But that did not stop him from thinking about them, praying for them, and wishing to encourage them. After all, in Christ they were his brothers and sisters. There are many Christians we have never met, but that we pray for and encourage through support of missions. You can find out about them on our website. Go there this week with your family to learn about them and pray for them. Consider saving up some of your money to send to them, or send them a letter or email to tell them that you are praying for them. It will surely be a blessing to them!

April 2025 Growth Goals

- 🕯 Read the Book of Colossians (*plus 50 Psalms*).
- 🕯 Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- 🕯 Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Colossians (available on the website).
- 🕯 Rest in 10 minutes of silence each week to remember both Jesus' death & resurrection, and your own spiritual resurrection.