

The Present of
Presence!



GROWTH GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-17

AUTHOR

The apostle Paul, formerly known as Saul, a persecutor of Christians, who had a conversion experience on the road to Damascus. He spread the good news of Jesus Christ on three missionary journeys, and was instrumental in bringing the gospel to non-Jews.

CONTEXT

Paul writes to the church at Colossae, a city in Asia Minor, around A.D. 60, from prison in Rome. Paul confronts false teaching that has infiltrated the church and reminds his audience that they have everything they need in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What word or phrase stands out to you? Is there a message you believe God is speaking to you through this word or phrase?
2. Paul tells the church that since they have been raised to new life with Christ, they should put heaven's priorities into practice. Filling our thoughts with heaven means concentrating on the eternal rather than worldly things. Does this challenge you? If so, how?
3. Read Philippians 4:7 and Colossians 3:15. What do these verses say about Christ's rule in our hearts and minds?
4. Read John 14:27. When have you experienced the peace of Christ in an unexpected way and how did it sustain you, comfort you?

5. What does a life look like when the peace of Christ rules in the heart?
6. In this new life with Christ, how are you present with Him?
7. We are a work in progress. In the United Methodist Church we say we are in the process of sanctification (the action of making or declaring something holy). Because of this, we are to clothe ourselves with what? (Colossians 3:12)
8. Living for God daily also requires what? (Colossians 3:13)
9. Above all else, we are to clothe ourselves with what virtue? (Colossians 3:14) Read I Corinthians 13:3 for the importance of this.
10. As members of one body, we are called to live in peace. Do you have relationships with other Christians that are in need of healing?
11. As Christians we represent Christ at all times. What impression do people have of Christ in their day to day dealings with you? Are there changes in your life you need to make to honor Christ?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Christ walks alongside us in our Christian walk and loves us with abundant grace.

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