G A I N

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord,*

*I will focus simply on you.*

*You are my source.*

*You are my life.*

*You are my joy.*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What are some actions you take to grow closer to Jesus?

What makes us think we have to ‘do’ something to make Christ’s work better?

How can your walk with God impact those around you?

May 24, 2015 Colossians 2:16-23

**Gaining Freedom Through Focus**

1. Religion is the vehicle not the destination.

*These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.* **Colossian 2:17**

1. Jesus’ work doesn’t need supplements.

*Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you.* **Colossians 2:18**

1. There is no substitution for intentional relationship with Jesus.

*They have lost connection with the head…* **Colossians 2:10**

1. Our connectedness to God has direct impact on other peoples’ connectedness to God

*…from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*

**Colossians 2:19**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Romans 11:1-2**
* **Tuesday Romans 14:8-20**
* **Wednesday Romans 15:1-6**
* **Thursday Colossians 1:1-14**
* **Friday Colossians 1:15-23**
* **Saturday Colossians 1:24-29**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

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**Mediate on these questions:**

Of the things we a raised from, which resonates with you the most?

What do you have to do to get more focused on Jesus?

What was your understanding of glory before this message? What is it now?

June 7, 2015 Colossians 3:1-4

**Eyes On The Prize**

1. The things we are raised from.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ…* **Colossian 3:1**

* Our sins and the shame
* Our parents sins
* The effect of others sin on us
1. Set up your heart and mind for heavenly gains!

*Set your hearts...set your minds…* **Colossians 3:2**

1. You have the protection of a powerful and loving God who cares for you.

*For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* **Colossians 3:3**

1. It’s time we rethought our understanding of glory.

*When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you will also appear with him in glory.* **Colossians 3:4**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Philippians 3:19-20**
* **Tuesday Romans 6:2**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 5:14**
* **Thursday 1 Peter 1:13**
* **Friday 1 Corinthians 1:7**
* **Saturday 1 John 3:2**

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**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What part of your sinful nature do you allow to live?

How does the sin in your life affect those around you?

Which one of the vices in v.5, 8 do you need to address directly?

June 14, 2015 Colossians 3:5-10

**Seeing Through The Fog**

1. The old life only dies when you decide to kill it.

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature…* **Colossian 3:5**

1. If you don’t kill these things-they will destroy you.

*Because of these things the wrath of God is coming. You used*

*to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.*

**Colossians 3:6-7**

1. The words you speak are a reflection of your heart.

*…rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.* **Colossians 3:8**

1. Your creator never meant for life to be this way, he got bigger plans for you.

*…put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.* **Colossians 3:9**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Ephesians 5:3-5**
* **Tuesday Romans 1:18**
* **Wednesday Ephesians 4:22-31**
* **Thursday Romans 12:1-2**
* **Friday Galatians 3:28**
* **Saturday Ephesians 2:10**

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**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Is there anything in your life which matters mor to you that to God?

Are you striving to imitate the behavior of Jesus?

Who comes first in your life? You or others?

July 5, 2015 Colossians 3:11-14

**What Matters To God**

1. There are things that don’t matter to God.

*Here there is no…but Christ is all, and is in all.* **Colossian 3:11**

1. Concern for our character should be a priority-not the other stuff.

*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.* **Colossians 3:12**

1. God is concerned about your willingness to imitate His behavior.

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* **Colossians 3:13**

1. Loving is about how another can benefit, not your own desire.

*And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them altogether in perfect unity.* **Colossians 3:14**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Romans 5:3-5**
* **Tuesday Galatians 5:22-23**
* **Wednesday Ephesians 4:22-31**
* **Thursday 1 John 4:8**
* **Friday Proverbs 28:6**
* **Saturday Matthew 12:35**

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**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What is the ruling emotion in your heart?

How does your life reflect the generosity of God?

**Next step**: Use one of the verses below to encourage someone.

July 12, 2015 Colossians 3:15-17

**Focusing Together**

1. Define the ruling emotion in your heart then challenge it.

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* **Col. 3:15**

1. We are responsible for each other’s spiritual health.

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another...* **Colossians 3:16a**

1. God has given us many resources to use.

*…with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing with gratitude in your hearts.* **Colossians 3:16b**

1. We must live lives which point to a loving and generous God.

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* **Colossians 3:17**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Proverbs 18:10**
* **Tuesday Isaiah 41:10**
* **Wednesday John 14:27**
* **Thursday John 16:33**
* **Friday Psalm 46:1-3**
* **Saturday 2 Timothy 1:7**

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**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Where do you put yourself first in your life?

How could your work life change if you served Jesus first?

**Next step**: Think of someone you have mistreated. What will you do to treat them differently?

July 19, 2015 Colossians 3:18-4:1

**Focus On Others**

1. A “Me first” attitude will always finish last.

*Wives submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting unto the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.* **Colossians 3:18-19**

1. Families are great practice for real life.

*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.* **Colossians 3:20-21**

1. If we serve Jesus first it will have great impact on our work lives.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters…It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* **Colossians 3:22-25**

1. We treat others with dignity because God does this for us.

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

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday John 13:34**
* **Tuesday 1 John 4:19-21**
* **Wednesday Philippians 2:3-4**
* **Thursday Matthew 5:43-48**
* **Friday James 2:14-17**
* **Saturday Mark 12:28-31**

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**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What distracts you from prayer?

What is the biggest reason you don’t share your faith?

**Next step**: Learn the 4 Spiritual laws and share it with one person this week.

July 26, 2015 Colossians 4:2-6

**The Primary Objective**

1. Instead of being devoted we are often distracted.

*Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.* **Colossians 4:2**

1. Most of the world does not know the hope of Jesus-we have to look for opportunities to share!

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.* **Colossians 4:3**

1. Learn how to share your faith clearly.

*Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.* **Colossians 4:4**

1. Our words and actions should reflect the life we have in Christ.

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* **Colossians 4:5-6**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Matthew 28:19-20**
* **Tuesday Romans 10:10-17**
* **Wednesday Mark 16:15**
* **Thursday 1 Corinthians 9:22**
* **Friday Isaiah 6:8**
* **Saturday 1 Peter 3:15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**