

Saturday

Please read John 12:12–15 to prepare for Palm Weekend. What do you hope to experience as you enter this week leading up to Easter? How do you hope to encounter God?

Please pray for the services this weekend and next. Pray about who you could invite to join you at church. Pray for the safety of the church and that we would be a source of joy and hope to our community this Easter season.



PART 8
...FOR LIFE!

MARCH 24 & 25, 2012 • MARK SPURLOCK

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him**, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 2:6–7*

How do I continue to live in Christ?

1. Continue to live in _____ rooted and built up in him... *v 2:7a*

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now **he has reconciled you** by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation... *Colossians 1:21–22*

2. Continue to live in _____ strengthened...as you were taught... *v 2:7b*

• About _____

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which **depends on human tradition** and the elemental spiritual forces of this world **rather than on Christ**. *Colossians 2:8*

• About _____

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and **your life is now hidden with Christ in God**. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. *Colossians 3:1–4*

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature... since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator**. *Colossians 3:5,9b–10*



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3. Continue to live in _____ overflowing with thankfulness... v 2:7c

We always **thank** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you... *Colossians 1:3*

...giving **thanks** to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:12*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be **thankful**. *Colossians 3:15*

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*

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

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Ephesians 2:8–10 & Colossians 1:21–22. What did you learn about what it means to “continue to live” in Christ from last weekend’s sermon?

What does continuing to live in God’s grace look like in your life?

How does continuing in grace impact your relationships?

Thank God today for His grace towards you. Pray that your spiritual roots will grow deep and that your life will be a reflection of God’s grace as you interact with others.

Tuesday

Please read I Corinthians 2:1–5 & Colossians 2:8. What does Paul say about truth of the Message he proclaimed (and the one we’re still proclaiming today!) in these verses?

Why is continuing in God’s truth so important?

How does the truth of God’s message encourage you today?

Thank God today that, through Jesus, you can know the Truth. Pray that no matter what you will not be taken “captive through hollow and deceptive teaching.” Ask God to make you a gracious Truth teller.

Wednesday

Please read Colossians 3:1–10. According to these verses, what is true about you, in Christ?

How has not continuing in the truth about who you are in Christ caused you grief in the past (or maybe the present!)?

How will you apply this truth and continue in it? How do you think that will impact you?

Thank God today that you have been created in His image. Ask God to give you the power through His Spirit to live out your true identity, “which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

Thursday

Please read Ephesians 1:16–19 & Colossians 3:12–14. One of the things Paul is consistently thankful for in his letters is the love of God.

How do these verses describe the impact God’s love can have on you?

How does the truth of God’s love create gratitude in you today?

Thank God today for His amazing love. Thank Him for beauty of the words you read in the Bible about His love. Pray that in this season of life you will find your first and most true source of love in God alone.

Friday

Please read Colossians 1:3, 12, 2:7, 3:15, 3:17, 4:2. Paul’s letters are all marked by gratitude — gratitude to God and gratitude for others.

Why do you think continuing to live in gratitude is important?

How could living in gratitude impact your attitude right now? How would it impact your closest relationships?

As you go to prayer today, spend several minutes identifying the blessings God has given you. Make your only prayer today that you will, no matter the circumstances, continue to live in gratitude for all God has done for you.



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 2:6–7*