

WE ONCE WERE, BUT NOW ARE...

7/11 & 7/12

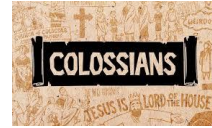
[Colossians 1:21-23](#) – How does it feel to live a different way of life? If we ask for forgiveness from God, we should be living differently. Paul says it well, we were alienated from God because of our evil behavior. We didn't follow Jesus; we followed our own ways. When we followed our ways, we reaped some painful consequences. But now we follow Jesus, and we reap some beautiful rewards like forgiveness. How do we keep living with Jesus? We do so by continuing in our faith. We will be tempted to substitute some other teachings than those of Jesus crucified. The Colossians faced that temptation. They were faced with a different gospel and were tempted to follow it. Paul writes this letter to encourage them and to stay true to Jesus.

What different kinds of gospel are out in the world?

How do you fight off the temptation to follow the false gospels?

What is the true gospel?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for July 6 – July 12, 2026

Have you ever felt like an outsider? Over the years, my family and I have moved eight times. It is hard to settle into a new community when everyone else knows each other. You try to fit in and make friends, but some of those friend groups have been together for a lifetime. So, you sit on the outside looking in, but then comes a moment when you make that friend. Then you are no longer on the outside. You fit in, and life is good. Paul shares with the church in Colossae that they were once outsiders. They were alienated from God because of their sin. Then Jesus came and entered their lives, and everything changed. They were no longer on the outside of God's forgiveness. Jesus's death and resurrection brought them what they needed: a second chance. Our story is similar. We were once on the outside of God's forgiveness, but we realized Jesus died for our sins, and we were adopted into the family of God.

~ Pastor Seth

BOUNDARIES

Mon. 7/6

[Exodus 19:1-25](#) – God is serious about the boundaries between Him and us. There is a narrative in Exodus 19 about God meeting with the people He brought out of Egypt. He will be present on the mountain, but the people cannot touch it; if they do, they will be destroyed. Their leader, Moses, establishes boundaries for the people to stay away from the mountain to keep them safe. Moses has been with God multiple times by now, and his sins have been forgiven. The people haven't been with God, and their sins cling to them. Moses' brother, Aaron, and the other priests are to go with Moses, but they must be consecrated first; they are to be made holy. God is strict with this because sin cannot be in His presence, which is why He made a way through Jesus for us to be with Him.

How does sin keep us from God?

What boundaries do we have to keep us safe from sin?

A WAY OF LIFE

Tue. 7/7

[Psalm 15](#) – How should we live our lives? Should we do whatever we want? Should we follow the culture and go where it goes? Should we follow God? If we follow God, how does He want us to live? Psalm 15 is a psalm that David wrote. David is known as one who walked closely with God; one description is a man after God's own heart. David still sinned throughout his life. Yet, he shares this psalm as a way that we should follow God. What should we do? 1) be blameless – meaning that our actions are right 2) be righteous – meaning that we live a holy life 3) speak the truth 4) don't slander – meaning we don't gossip 5) do no wrong to their neighbor 6) cast no slurs on others – see everyone through a lens of love, and there are 6 more things to do every single day.

Could you follow all 12 actions? Every moment of every day?

What can we do to live with God?

A NEW HEART

Wed. 7/8

[Ezekiel 36:22-32](#) – Who tells you that you are wrong when you do something wrong? The longer we live with Jesus as our Lord, the more we need someone to hold us accountable for our actions. In this part of Ezekiel, God is sharing His anger at the people for profaning His name. He is a holy God, but there was nothing holy about their actions. God gave them multiple chances to repent, but they didn't. The people then faced the consequences of their actions and lived in exile. In the future, God will sprinkle them with clean water, signifying that they are holy and forgiven. God will give them a new heart that is yielding to His ways. God will restore their lands. Not for their sake, but for His sake, so that the nations will know about His holiness and grace.

What does God mean by giving people a new heart?

How does God give us a new heart?

HE CALLS US FRIENDS

Thur. 7/9

[John 15:9-17](#) – We give our friends nicknames, but we usually don't call them servants. There is one instance in which Jesus tells his disciples that they are his friends. He gathered them around the table during his last meal and taught them some hard truths. He modeled servant leadership by washing their feet before the meal. He taught them about what they will face in the future. There is a moment when he tells them they are his friends. He no longer calls them servants because they know him. They know where he comes from and what he teaches. They know that they are to love each other and the rest of the world. As they follow Jesus' command to love, they will come to know the Father and do what they see the Father doing, just like Jesus did.

How can we love as Jesus loved?

Is Jesus calling you a friend? How do you know?

LIVING A DIFFERENT LIFE

Fri. 7/10

[Romans 8:1-8](#) – Romans is a letter Paul wrote to the church in Rome, and in it, he shares his beliefs about Jesus and what Jesus has done. He starts this part off by saying there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This is a huge statement. If we believe in Jesus, we are not condemned. We stand with Jesus because our sins are forgiven. Our sins are forgiven because he took our sins upon himself and died. He paid the penalty we should have paid for our sins. In dying for our sins, he didn't condemn us. He loved us. As we live for him, we will no longer be living as the world lives. We will be looking for the Spirit of God and listening to where the Spirit leads us. We won't be seeking our will, but God's will.

How does it feel not being condemned?

How do we know if we are living by God's standards?