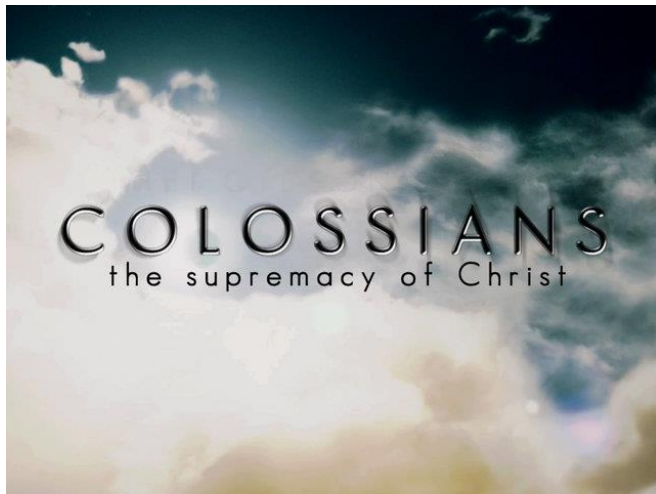


Henley-in-Arden Baptist Church  
“Staying Connected” 14 – Sunday 21st June 2020

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*Staying connected to God and each other while not meeting as church in the normal way*

Greetings again from me; and – for those who celebrate these things – “Happy Fathers Day”. I hope you know something of the love and support of our heavenly Father as we continue to go through the challenges of this time.



Today we look at Colossians chapter 2.

Having reminded his readers of who Christ is and what He has done, Paul now wants to encourage his readers in the faith (and for them not to be distracted or led astray): “you have been given fulness in Christ” (v10)

vv6-7

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

The challenge for the believers at Colossae and for us is to not just sit on our laurels, but to continue to grow in the faith “rooted and built up in him”; and to ensure that our security is in Him. He who “forgave us all our sins” (v13).

Sometimes the world can seem like a confusing place – with all sorts of conflicting views on offer. Even Christian commentators can sometimes send out confusing messages (!) But our faith is simply in Christ Jesus, and the power of God, who “raised Him from the dead” (v12).

Colossians is a call for us to remember the essential core of our faith – that we are “in Christ”: the crucified and risen one. And to live thankful lives in the light of that grace and love.

Lord God, our heavenly Father,  
we thank You for the amazing privilege of being counted as Yours.  
Thank You for your love, and the security we can enjoy in You

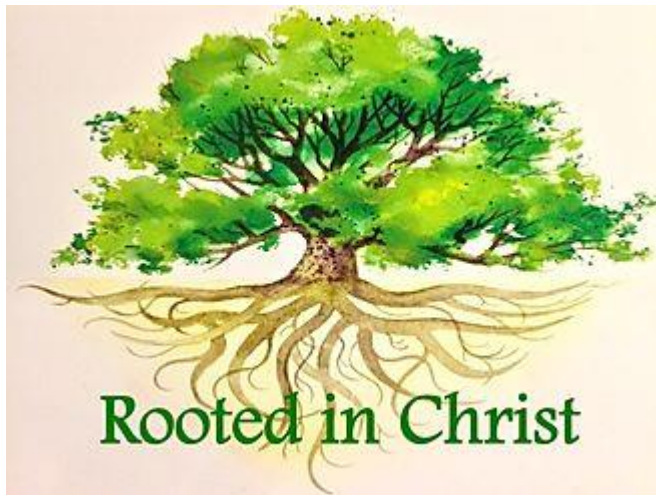
Help us in these difficult times to know You with us, and Your power at work in our lives. We pray for those we know who are struggling in different ways at this time: for the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, anxious and those carrying burdens that seem perhaps overwhelming. Bring Your strength, Your comfort and Your peace we pray.

This week we pray for blessing and strength for those in the following occupations, and their families: kayak instructors, kebab shop owners, kitchen designers... lighthouse keepers, locksmiths, librarians...

We continue to pray for medics and all who work in the NHS: for protection, encouragement; and for rest and respite too. And for those with responsibilities in government: for wisdom, in listening and in action - to do the right thing.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of sins forgiven, and that we can call You “abba”, Father.

Hear our prayers which we bring in Jesus’ name. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory – for ever and ever. Amen



*This week's quote:*

“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to MacDonalds makes you a Hamburger”

[mind you, I’m looking forward to going to church again – and MacDonalds, for that matter!]

*Quiz question:*

Who did the Colossians first hear the gospel message from?  
(answer next week)

For those not online, especially:

Worship services on radio and TV this Sunday include:

- Radio 4 8:10am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 11:45am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 1:15pm Songs of Praise

And finally, please do get in touch with me at any time

May God bless you with His peace.

Mike

01564 793975

“Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)