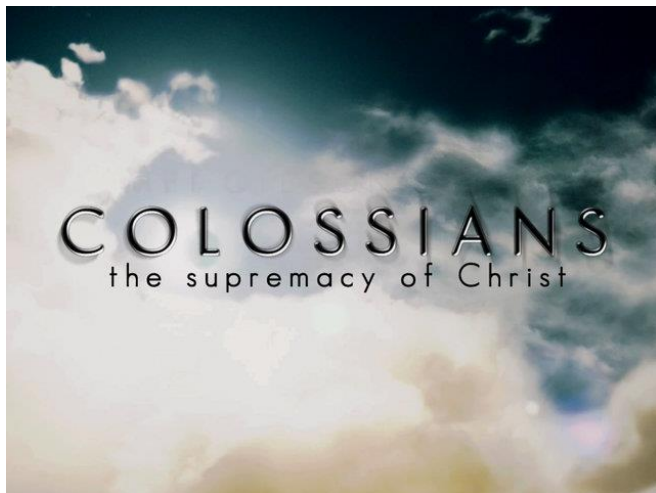


Henley-in-Arden Baptist Church
“Staying Connected” 15 – Sunday 28th June 2020

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

We continue to respond to this unusual situation with patience and hope. As the lock-down restrictions are eased a little, we will be reviewing the guidance for church gatherings and looking at what may be possible for us over the coming weeks and months ahead. Certainly, we will be acting cautiously and responsibly – and assessing what will be practical and appropriate in our own context.



Today we look at chapter 3 of Paul’s letter to the Colossians.

Building on the message of who Christ is, and our identity in Him: (our true selves are now linked with his resurrected, heavenly life),

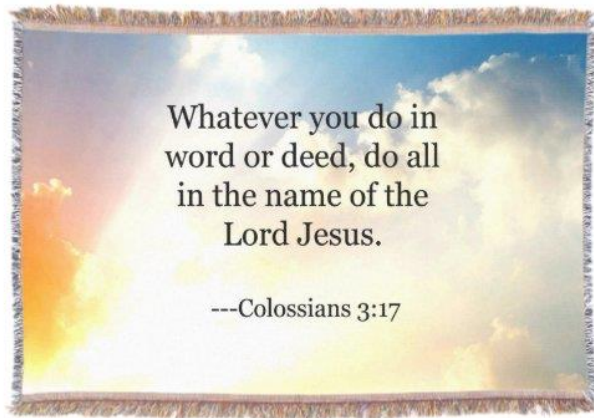
chapter 3 then goes on to set out some of what that means for our way of living...

And it means that our attitudes and lifestyle practices matter. During my years as a Christian, I would hope I have grown a bit in various areas – of understanding something of the gospel message and the great doctrines of the bible, of skills in service which have been honed and developed a little by usage. In my case by training also, having responded to a specific call into church ministry and leadership. But what I have learned – and this is true for all of us – is that most important of all is our **character**: qualities of kindness and love. How I long to continually grow in character: in Christlikeness – developing in *this* sort of holiness. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives; and as Paul puts it elsewhere “Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:23)

Colossians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

This is how we are meant to be. And with God’s help, we can be! “Take off the old” (v9), and “put on the new” (v10). So, let’s ask for the ongoing help of the Holy Spirit in our lives day by day. This is all possible because of Him!



Lord God, our heavenly Father,
We thank you for Your gifts of Life and love

We pray for health and strength for those struggling in various ways at this time... God of compassion, bring Your help and Your healing touch in mind, body and spirit, we pray. And we pray for those who are anxious or even traumatised by the prolonged nature of this pandemic – for a real and lasting peace..

We pray this week for those involved in the following fields of work: for machinists, medical scientists, mechanics... neurologists, nurses, navy officers... Lord, may they have a true sense of being about Your work. Give them Your help and strength, integrity and protection, we pray.

And finally, Lord, we pray for Your glory in all things
In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

A bit of fun [a joke with a warning perhaps...]

Q: How long was Cain hateful towards his brother?

A: As long as he was able (Abel?!)

Remember: a small act of kindness is of invaluable worth!

Answer to last week's quiz: Epaphras (Col 1:7)

For those not online, especially:

Worship services on radio and TV this Sunday include:

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

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

May God bless you

Mike

01564 793975

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:15)