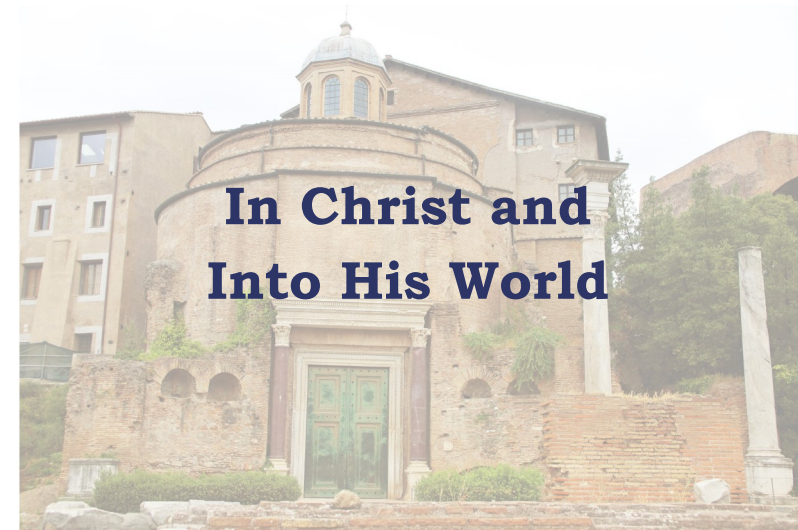


### **Final Thought**

God created all things the way they ought to be - alive, righteous, good, glorifying to Him - all through Christ. In sin, humanity brought things to God's creation (and into their own lives) that ought not to have been - unrighteousness, evil, self-centeredness, and ultimately death. Again, through Christ, God has made anew in His gift of life through the redemption that came with Christ's cross. As that redemption now unites believers in Christ with His gift of eternal life, that same redemption is already breaking into this sinful world, giving us the joy of salvation! Grace in Christ is also molding and empowering us, in the places to which God has called us, to already begin living again the way God intended through a life of good, Christ-glorifying works. While this may bring us into suffering in this fallen world, Paul is leading his Colossian readers to understand the true knowledge of salvation that leads to true life in Christ.



### **Session III - The New Self in Christ**

Focus Verse:

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."  
(Colossians 3:16)*

## Session III - The New Self in Christ

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious heavenly Father, You have given us Your Holy Word which reveals to us the joy that Your Son Jesus has come as our Savior. As we spend time in Your Word today, may it dwell in us richly that by it Your Spirit might shape us in our words and deeds to bear the image of Jesus in Your world. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

### Opening Discussion – The New You

It often happens in morning news programs or afternoon talk shows. The host will have some guests come, thinking that they're at the show for some other reason, only to be surprised to learn that a loved one has set them up to receive a glamorous makeover. Often the program will capture footage of the person before their makeover, sporting less than amazing clothes, perhaps without any or much makeup. Then the transformation takes place, often accompanied by the person being treated with much love and encouragement by those doing the makeover. Finally, the grand unveiling of the "transformed" person takes place at the end of the story where everyone marvels at how amazing the "made over" person looks and feels.

1. If you could gift someone with a complete makeover, why would you want it for them?
2. If you could have some aspect of your life "made over" what would it be and why?

In our third session today, Paul leads us into understanding that in God's grace freely given to us on account of Christ's blood-bought redemption, we put off the old self and put on a new self in Him. As he leads us into this, Paul will describe what that new self looks like and how that new self in us relates to others.

### Into the Word – The New Self in Christ

Read Colossians 3:1-4

1. How have Christians, including those at Colossae, been raised with Christ? [See Colossians 2:11-13 and Romans 6:3-5]

2. To what does Paul direct his readers' focus in Colossians 3:1-2? What comforting image of Christ does Paul give us here?
3. When will Christ appear? What will be true for His followers at that time?

Read Colossians 3:5-17

1. How does Paul pastorally address the reality of being both saint and sinner in Colossians 3:5-8? What does it mean to put something to death in ourselves? Why does Paul admonish his readers to live this way?
2. Why are followers of Jesus not to lie to one another according to Colossians 3:9-10? Discuss what it means for the new self to be "renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator"?
3. In the life in Christ that is ours through Baptism, what is true regarding former worldly distinctions? [Colossians 3:11] What might this look like for a gathering of Christ's followers today?
4. How does Paul identify baptized believers in Colossians 3:12? As we empty ourselves of sinful things, putting off the old self, what does Paul exhort us to "put on"? How do these virtues of Christ touch your life?
5. According to Colossians 3:13, what should be our goal in dealing with each other, even when complaints arise?
6. Why does Paul set love as the highest virtue to put on?
7. What does it mean to have the peace of Christ rule in our hearts? [Colossians 3:15]
8. How does Paul describe the relationship that a believer in Jesus is to have with His Word and one another in Colossians 3:16? Why do you think thankfulness is such a central aspect of Colossians 3:15b-17?
9. Why would Paul exhort us to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus?

### Into the Word – Practical Christian Living

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

1. What are some ways this entire section of Paul's letter might be misunderstood in our time and culture?
2. For those who have put on the new self of Christ in Holy Baptism, [Colossians 3:12-14] what is the foundation for our fulfillment of our societal roles?
3. How does knowing that in all our callings in life we are serving the Lord, who gives us eternal life as our inheritance, uphold us even in callings where we may unjustly suffer greatly?