

Connect Service Notes

Living Well: Kingdom Principles for a Flourishing Life (Part 2)

KTLC | 2pm 13 September

Key Scripture: Colossians 2:8-15 (NB 8-10)

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit... and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him."
Colossians 2:8-10 (NRSVA)*

Summary

A flourishing life is not found by adding Jesus to an already busy life. It is found by making Jesus the centre of life. Paul reminds us that Jesus is fully God, that we are complete in him, and that through his death and resurrection he has defeated every power that seeks to control us. As followers of Christ, we are called to guard our focus, find our identity in Jesus, and live confidently from his victory.

Three Kingdom Principles for Flourishing

1. Guard Your Focus: Do not let anything take you captive.

We live in a world competing for our attention. The ideas, voices, and influences we repeatedly focus on will shape our thinking and behaviour. Paul warns believers to test every message by one simple question: "Is it according to Christ?"

Rather than allowing comparison, success, approval, or cultural values to define us, we are called to renew our minds and keep Jesus at the centre.

Application: Audit your influences. Consider what is shaping your thinking and whether it is drawing you closer to Christ.

2. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus: Everything you need is found in him.

Paul declares two life-changing truths:

- The fullness of God is found in Jesus.
- Our fullness is found in Jesus.

Many people seek completion through achievement, relationships, status, or approval. These things can be good gifts, but they cannot provide lasting identity or security. Only Christ can.

We do not work *for* acceptance and fullness; we live *from* the fullness we have already received in Jesus.

Application: Return to Jesus throughout the day. In moments of anxiety, comparison, temptation, or uncertainty, make Christ your centre again.

3. Live from Christ's Victory: The cross has changed your position and your future.

Through Christ:

- Our old life has been put off.
- We have been raised with him.
- We have been made alive with him.
- Our sins have been forgiven.
- Our record of debt has been cancelled.

- The powers of darkness have been disarmed.

We do not fight to achieve victory; we stand in the victory Jesus has already won through the cross and resurrection.

Application: Replace the lies of the enemy with the truth of God's Word:

- *I have been raised with Christ.*
- *My sins have been forgiven.*
- *Jesus is Lord over every power and authority.*

Conclusion

The question is not whether something has your attention. The question is: What is at the centre of your attention? A flourishing life is a Christ-centred life. As Paul teaches, we began with Jesus and we continue with Jesus. He is not simply part of our lives; he is the foundation, focus, and source of our fullness.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him."

Colossians 2:6

Discussion Questions

1. What currently receives most of your attention, and how is it shaping your thoughts, emotions, and decisions?
2. What does it mean in practical terms to find your fullness and identity in Christ rather than in achievements, relationships, or approval?
3. Which truth about Christ do you most need to hold onto this week: that you are complete in him, forgiven through him, or victorious with him? Why?
4. What specific habit or practice could help you stay focused on Jesus every day and keep him at the centre of your life?