**Week of August 26, 2018**

**Colossians 3:5-17**

**Living for Righteousness**

5Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A5-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29524a)] 7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

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

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

**Understanding of the Scripture**

In today’s scripture we look what the believer’s transformation should look like if we have believed and accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. The scripture written by the Apostle Paul gives us a metaphoric example of our old nature versus our new nature once we accept Christ. Our old nature which is unpleasing to God consisted of things such as sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed which are considered idolatry must be put to death. We must rid ourselves of these actions walk in a way that is pleasing to God. This also includes eliminating the practices of lying, anger, malice, race, slander filthy language. Our new way of living which is pleasing to God and unites us all as one Christ. Our new nature calls for us to have compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Reconciling with each other and forgiving one another as God has forgiven us. Our new nature should drive us to teach and admonish each with wisdom, peace and love from our hearts. We are to give thanks and praise to God in all that we do. The old nature will always want to come back and dominate your life this is why we must put it to death. This is not a onetime death but we must put our old nature to death on a daily basis asking the lord for strength conquer it. Paul stated in Philippians 4:8 the following: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is any praise, exercise yourselves in these things.” We must do and think on these things to live a righteous life.

