

15. The Song of the Redeemed

Colossians 3:16-17

Last week we saw Paul's instruction to "let the peace that belongs to Christ rule in our hearts" ...

... it is the picture of an umpire deciding the outcome of a contest

... "the peace of Christ" within us is to be our internal arbitrator ...

... the peace of Christ determines the arguments

... restrains our passions

... subdues our jealousies

... it mediates our anxiety and becomes the dominant influence in our relationships

Now Paul speaks about the word of Christ dwelling in us richly.

1. You are what you **ALLOW**

LET *the word of Christ richly* **DWELL** *within you (Col. 3:16)*

What we see here is a seemingly insignificant word that has significant meaning.

"enoikeito" – 3rd person present singular active middle verb

In Biblical Greek the middle voice is used to show the verb acting upon itself, for its own benefit.

For example:

- John bought himself a new car.

- Jane accepted the offer.

Paul is saying to the reader “You let the Word of Christ dwell within you.”

In other words, YOU have power over how the Word of Christ dwells within you.

Although most Christians affirm the Bible as God’s Word, many of them compartmentalize their faith in such a way that the Word of God has no influence on how they actually live their lives.

Jesus not only told us to be salt and light ... he warned us that salt could lose its savor and that light could be hidden under a bushel.

This was the failure of the Pharisees ...

... yes, they were very religious ... but without sincerity, without truth, without pushing back against the world’s culture.

... pushing back against those teachings that hindered God’s work.

Paul isn’t telling us to be more religious ...

... Paul wants us to be saturated with the Word of Christ ...

We are alive today (right now) ... [not last year, not next year, not 100 years ... but now]

... that means that God has entrusted us and commissioned us to “go into this world/age/society/generation and to both proclaim the gospel of Christ as well “teach believers to observe all the things Christ commanded”

This is exactly what Jesus said!

... Therefore, it would be mentally, logically, and spiritually naïve to have a cavalier attitude about Christ's Word.

Salt and light will always meet resistance but that is what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

To not "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" is to abandon the great commission.

Yes, a life of ambivalence and apathy would be easier ...

Indifference, unconcern, and lethargy is a broader and more popular path ...

... it will not require you to take up a cross

... this wicked world will not oppose you

... but that is not discipleship.

"Letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" will put you in conflict with the culture.

Jesus told us it would:

- "If the world hates me, it will also hate you."
- "I did not come to bring peace but a sword."
- "I am sending you out as a sheep among wolves."

When Martin Luther penned those words:

- *A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:*

- *For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,*
- *On earth is not his equal.*

He did so because he understood that the Word of Christ in us calls us (not to a playground) but a battlefield!

He knew why it was necessary to put on the whole armor of God even the “sword of the Spirit which is the Word of Christ.”

Paul is writing to the Colossian Church which is being attacked from within by false teachings and from without by blatant paganism ...

... that is exactly where we are in 2021.

If you let the Word of Christ dwell in, you richly then you cannot be silent when the Russell Moore's of this world twist the scriptures to suit their political agendas.

... you cannot be OK with churches participating in a month-long celebration dedicated to the pride of unrestrained immorality.

I can promise you that the more you feed on, meditate, and hide in your heart the Word of God ... the more your love for Christ will grow ...

... the more you will desire to live a life that pleases Christ

This is our calling ...

... we don't have the option to wave the white flag and surrender to the forces of darkness

... for far too long we have allowed the wrong things to flourish and grow in our lives and in the church

... and the only way that the idolatries of worldly philosophy, immorality, entertainment, selfish pleasure, and church growth can be removed from the church ...

... is by each and every one of us “letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.”

That is the first and best thing you can do for each other.

We are (and we will be) what we allow.

... let us allow the Word of Christ to saturate us.

2. You strengthen what you ENCOURAGE

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

Here Paul tells exactly “HOW” we let the word of Christ richly dwell within us.

You can see by the screen that are three key participles in verse 16.

Allow me to explain: **A participle is a verbal adjective.**

... that means (a participle) as a verb it **shows and describes the action** of a verb and as an adjective can **modify (or describe) a noun**.

For example, consider:

The man walking down the street lost his car.

The subject is "man," and the main verb is "lost."

The simple sentence is "man lost car."

... However, there is also a description of that man. He is, "WALKING down the street."

In this sentence "walking" is a participle modifying the noun "man."

... in the same way a participle can also modify a verb if the sentence said

The man walking down the street suddenly lost his car.

The word "walking" describes the man, and the word "suddenly" describes how he lost his car.

This is how participles work.

Biblical Greek is a "**participle-loving**" language ...

... and that is because it is much more descriptive and definitive than the English language.

Here in Colossians 3:16 the subject of the verse is "The Word" and the main verb is "let dwell" and Paul uses three participles to instruct us on how to "let dwell" richly the word of God in all wisdom ...

Teaching, admonishing, singing

These are "participles of means" therefore "the means by which" we do this.

... but before we look at these three participles look at what we are supposed to teach and admonish with ...

with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

Without going into a great deal of detail:

Psalms is pointing back to the Old Testament Psalms ... musical constructions accompanied by instruments.

Hymns particularly refers to songs that are praising God ...

... this is exactly what Paul did in chapter with a 2-stanza hymn.

Spiritual Songs would be any type/genre/format of musical or non-musical poetry.

These are certainly not the only tools, but they are tools, to be used for teaching, admonishing, and singing.

In other words, when we gather together as God's people and God's church what we sing must glorify God ...

... not just in spirit but also in the words we use.

We don't sing as a church because this was our idea (methodology) ... we sing because this is what God has instructed us to do.

... and we sing to please God, teach about God, admonish God's people, and encourage God's church.

I think you can now see why the worship music a church uses is so critical.

Teaching— has to do with imparting information, facts, knowledge, and wisdom

- *There were 12 disciples Jesus called to help him Simon Peter Andrew, James his brother
John ...*
- *Alas and did my savior bleed and did my sovereign die, would he devote that sacred head
for such a worm as ai*

What we sing must **teach the truth** of God's Word ... For example:

- *Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not, as thou hast been thou forever will be*

Now consider by **Scott Underwood and Vineyard Publishing:**

*I'm thirsty Lord, Yes, I'm thirsty Lord. I'm thirsty for the Living Waters of Life. I want a drink of
the Living Waters of Life. Fill me up Lord. I don't have to feel it. Make me drunk with your Holy
Spirit ...*

Admonishing— has to do with positive and negative encouragement.

What we sing should show us both the holiness of God and the desperate need of humanity.

- *Jesus is the sweetest name I know, and he's just the same as his lovely name and that's
the reason why I love him so, for Jesus is the sweetest name I know*
- *All Hail the Power of Jesus' name let angels prostrate fall ...*
- *He giveth more grace, when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when*

the labors increase, to added affliction, He addeth his mercies ...

Singing— is the form of the communication

- *Little is much, when God is in it, Labor not for wealth or fame, there's a crown and you can win it, if you go in Jesus' name.*
- *Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me, Not for the years of time alone, But for eternity*

Here is the simple truth: if you are discouraged you are weakened ... but if you are encouraged, you are strengthened.

Heresy weakens ... truth strengthens.

Paul says we are to do this with great thankfulness in our hearts to God.

3. The NAME is the passport

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Col. 3:17)

So whatever you do ...

... if you are putting off the sins of the flesh

... if you are putting on the characteristics of Christ

... if you are letting Christ's peace rule in your hearts

... if you are letting the Word of God dwell richly in all wisdom

... if you are teaching, admonishing, and singing

And that is just a partial list!!!

Whatever you are doing ... do in the **name of the Lord Jesus Christ!**

This emphasis on the name of Jesus is a common theme in the New Testament.

Jesus taught us to pray “hallowed be thy name”

In the Great Commission Matthew says we are to baptize into the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit

Building upon that truth in Acts 10:48 Peter, at Cornelius’ house tells him to be baptized “in” the name of Jesus.

The name of Jesus isn’t merely a designation like your name or mine ... this is the expression of the sum total of God’s divine being.

The name of Jesus is not an incantation or a magic word ...

The name of Jesus is the authority that heaven has provided for us to give us access

... our God has a name, and it is Jesus Christ.

... that name is our passport from death into life

... our passport into a life of victorious prayer

... the key that unlocks heaven’s throne room

... there is salvation nowhere else

... it is no other name under heaven given to men whereby we can be saved

... Jesus is His name, and He is our king and our monarch.

So we are to “let the Word of Christ” richly dwell in us ...

The means of that happening is teaching, admonishing, and singing the truth of God and God’s word

... that encourages God’s people

And, we have access to worship and sing through the name of Jesus Christ.

We are the redeemed and our song is the song of Jesus Christ and His redemption!

Pause.....

But today I want to leave you with this question ...

... How do you teach, admonish, sing ... *psalms, hymns and spiritual songs* when your heart is breaking?

How can praises be in your mouth when there is unbelievable pain in your heart and soul?

There have been moments in my life that I have looked back to and thought ...

- It will never be that painful ever again ...
- My heart will never be broken like that again ...
- I’m never going to feel blackness and sorrow that deep ever again ...

But then I do.

... I find myself in a valley just as deep or deeper than the ones before.

Here is something I've had to force myself to learn and know ...

We were never created to carry the weight of our own brokenness ...

This exactly why Jesus said

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

We were never created to carry the weight of our own brokenness ...

Here is why you need to know this and believe this:

Because if you don't, when your heart is breaking...

... you will bypass God and try to find your own answers and your own solutions ...

You will do “soul-searching” and try to create a path out of your sorrow through your own strength and your own ingenuity

... you will try to carry the weight of your own brokenness

... you will make the effort to create your own plans and construct yourself a better future

... and if you can't see any way to do that that

... if you can't imagine a way to get “yourself up and out” **THEN you will despair**

... I MUST REMIND YOU again, you were never designed to carry the weight of your own brokenness.

I know about that kind of despair, that level of hopelessness, that absolute brokenness ...

But there is another thing I've had to learn ...

Grace isn't just about healing ... sometimes grace has to break us.

God loves us so much He refuses to allow us to control our own lives.

A broken heart is not necessary evidence of God's absence, it can just as easily be the evidence of God's presence.

I can't fully explain it theologically ...

... but I've seen it in my own life

... I've seen God create moments where the despair was so great I felt that I could not catch my breath ...

... I feared that if I ever allowed myself to cry, I would never stop crying...

But there in the blackness of that night as I clung to Jesus in my despair ...

... I have found HIM time and time again to be my dearest friend and my surest refuge.

There are many reasons and many kinds of broken hearts, and Christ is good at healing every one of them.