

“YOUR WORD IS... To Dwell and Abide In Us”

The Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:16-17: “*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*”¹⁷ *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*” Earlier in Chapter 3 Paul reminds those of us who belong to Christ that we have come out of the world and have been raised to new life in Christ. Because of that we need to think more about the things above and less about the things of earth. In the larger message of Chapter 3 the Apostle Paul says that we’ve taken off the old nature, and the new self we have put on is being renewed according to the image of Jesus. Not only do we take off the “old stuff” when we come to Jesus, but we also put on a new “code of conduct.”

As a part of this new way of living, Colossians 3:16-17 tells us four important things that we must do. **First** of all, Paul says that we must *let the Word of Christ, in all of its richness, dwell in us*. The Holy Scriptures are so rich—they are an incredible treasure. In the richness of God’s Word the Lord reveals Himself to us, and helps us to understand the way we are meant to live. Why do we take so little of it? The best choice we can make every day is to plant the Word of God in our souls. In order to allow more of the Word of Christ to dwell in us we must make sure our heart is good soil. We should also pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth before we read or study. What a privilege it is to read, study and meditate upon the Bible. In order to give the Word of Christ more room in our lives, we need to get rid of the junk in our lives.

Secondly, Paul says that we must *teach and admonish one another with all the wisdom God gives*. As we learn from God’s Word, we can pass what we’re learning on to others (and vice versa). It’s a good thing when a question or an issue drives us to God’s Word to search for the answer. When we give or receive counsel, it should always be consistent with the truth of God’s Word. Thank God we can pray for wisdom! It’s beneficial to read the Book of Proverbs regularly and let its wisdom seep down into our souls. **Third**, Paul says that we must *sing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with gratitude in our hearts*. Music is a powerful tool from the Lord Jesus with which we can glorify God and worship Him. Worship and the Word go hand-in-hand. Great periods of revival in the church have always been accompanied by an outburst of song and joy. God is the One we must keep in mind when we sing; truly we sing for an audience of One. As we worship with music through Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs we are connecting with God and bringing Him glory with our prayers, songs and lives. *Psalms* are songs right out of the Word of God; its Scriptural truths and content put to music. *Hymns* are songs that express magnificent truths and theology about our God. *Spiritual songs* are songs given by inspiration of God and are sung directly from our spirit to the Lord.

Finally, Paul says that we must *do and say everything as a representative of the Lord Jesus*. Whatever we do, whether it’s considered “secular” or “sacred,” we should aim to *make Jesus proud*. It’s the highest privilege to wear the name of Jesus and represent Him in all areas of our lives. I like what one Pastor said, “*We don’t come to Church to worship—we’re to bring our worship with us when we come to Church. We don’t stop worship when we leave Church—we’re*

to take our worship with us when we leave Church.” Our Christian faith ought to reach into every area of our lives. To do something “in the name of Jesus” means that Jesus would approve of it, and it’s consistent with the character of Christ. As the Word of Christ dwells richly in us we should aim to make Jesus proud in everything we do!

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. How regularly are you planting the Word of Christ in your soul?
2. To invite wisdom to permeate your life, read 1 Chapter of Proverbs every day for a month. Repeat as necessary.
3. Sing your heart out to God!
4. Are you making Jesus proud in everything you do?