

Studies in the Epistle to the Colossians
Chapter Seventeen
All in the Name of the Lord Jesus

“¹⁶ 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 whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:16-17).

In Colossians 3:16, we are instructed to allow the Word of Christ to be at home in our lives; to be an intricate and governing, ruling and reigning force in our lives. The Word of God is to be considered and treated as a *member of the family*. It should have a permanent place in our lives. It should be more than a book to us. The idea implied is one of an intimate relationship. We should be working to know the Word of God as intimately as we seek to know one of our children, a husband or a wife.

When that happens, the Word of God becomes more than a fixture in our lives. It becomes an intricate part of who and what we are as a person. It will become such an intimately interwoven part of what we are that no one will be able to distinguish where we end and it begins.

The word “richly” signifies an overflowing abundance like an overflowing treasure chest. The words “wisdom teaching” signify that the overflowing of the wealth of the Word of God is to flow out of our lives with direction and purpose. The direction and purpose of the overflowing wealth of the truth of God’s Word from our lives is intended to be directed to specific individuals. In other words, we are not to be treasure chests for truth, but distribution centers.

“¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate” (I Timothy 6:17-18).

What God teaches us, we are to teach to others. Wisdom is the application of knowledge. It is the heart and mind of God overflowing from the life of a believer yielded to the Holy Spirit. To have wisdom does not necessarily make you wise. It is the application and use of wisdom in everyday life that makes a person wise. Solomon had wisdom. When he used it, he was wise. When he didn’t use it, he was not wise. The book of Ecclesiastes is the history of unused wisdom and the consequences of that on a life.

“¹⁷ And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow” (Ecclesiastes 1:17-18).

The emphasis of teaching wisdom is not merely factual, but applicational. Doctrine teaches us more than facts. It applies the facts to life, forming applications and establishing principles and gives answers and solutions to the everyday situations of life.

The words “admonishing one another” emphasize a warning of exhortation with the intention to encourage, reprove or correct, or even to find fault (I Corinthians 5:12-6:5).

“¹² For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? ¹³ But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?² Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?⁴ If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.⁵ I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren” (I Corinthians 5:12-6:5)?

Methods of teaching and admonishing

“Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs;” each of these refers to the inspired Psalms of the O.T. The Psalms of the Old Testament are a source of great practical truths. Psalms are doctrine with a musical accompaniment. Hymns are songs of praise to God and refer to the Psalms that were sung. Another name for the Psalms was the Book of Hymns. Spiritual Songs are songs with or without music on any spiritual subject.

When the Word of Christ dwells in us “richly,” it will naturally burst forth in our life like music, as the Psalms did in David’s life. What fills our hearts will fill our minds. What fills our minds will fill our lives.

“¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

“With grace in your hearts;” grace is a divine attribute owned and distributed only by God. When it is in the believer’s life, it is divinely supplied. It is the divine energy produced in the heart of the believer yielded to the Holy Spirit.

Singing that is done for the purpose of entertainment or self glorification is of the flesh and is not done out of the grace in our heart. The idea here is to make sure the focus of music is upon worshipping God. The central purpose of singing is to glorify God, not to display one’s voice or musical abilities. The focal point is the message about the Lord, not upon the sound.

“In your hearts” means to sing from the heart. True praise cannot be manufactured. True praise is the overflow of our gratefulness to God. True praise cannot be withheld. It must be expressed.

“To the Lord”

Praising God is not for people or to people, even though other people may be present. Praise directs itself to Jesus our Lord. Praising God is so focused on God it becomes almost oblivious to other people around us.

All too often, the music that is sung and played in God’s assembly house is the world’s music written to please and entertain the world, not to glorify God. The words are familiarly Christian, but the music is the world’s. Much of today’s Christian music is not written to glorify God, for worship or praise. Much of today’s Christian music is written for entertainment, not for a close encounter with God. The command to be “in the world, but not of it” applies also to our music.

“Whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).

This statement follows in context from the previous statements above. The Lordship of Jesus must be the springboard for everything we do. We have His authority when anything is done in His Name. The “Name” of the Lord Jesus stands for all that He is and all that He has done. It speaks of His sufficiency to meet our every need. As Christians, everything we do in this life is done in His Name and reflects on His Name.

A great deal of what is being done in His name today degrades His name. It does not exalt it. What does it mean in our society to be called a Christian? The individual who is doing “all in the name of Jesus” is acting in total conformity to the Word of His proclaimed Lord, and doing so with “thanksgiving.”

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1. In Colossians 3:16, what does God mean by “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you”? _____

A. Do you think this command is a reality in your life? _____
B. If yes, what makes you think so? _____

2. What does the word “richly” signify about the abundance of the Word of God in our lives? _____

3. The words “in all wisdom; teaching” reveal that the overflow of the wealth of truth from our lives ought to have two things. What are those two things? Explain the significance of each one.
A. _____

B. _____

C. Read I Timothy 6:17-18. This all translates into the fact that we are not intended to be *treasure chests* for truth, but _____ centers.
4. If you *possess* wisdom, does that automatically make you a wise person? _____
What is it that makes you a wise person? _____
5. What is the emphasis in teaching wisdom to others? _____

6. Do the “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” refer to songs in our hymnals or songs written by contemporary writers? _____
A. What is the believer being challenged to do here? _____

B. How does the truth of Matthew 6:19-21 help us grasp the meaning of this? _____

7. What is the meaning of the words “with grace in your hearts”? _____

A. If music is intended for worship, what must be its focus? _____
B. Can true praise be manufactured? _____
C. Where does true praise come from? _____
8. As Christians, on who does everything we do in this world reflect? _____
How is your reflection? _____