

**A GLORIOUS PROFESSION**  
*A Proper Response Of The Believer*  
**Colossians 3:16-17**

If you have a *sin problem*...it's because you have a *Word problem*.

*“Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”*

~Psalm 119:11

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.”*

~I John 2:1a

You will never have *victory* over the devil without the *Word of God*. (ie. Jesus in the wilderness being tempted by Satan...**Matthew 4**). Build the Word of God into your life. It's not just *quoting* Scripture...Satan quotes Scripture...but it's *engrafting* it into your life.

**I. THE WORD OF CHRIST: (vs. 16a)**

The new life Christians must *put on* is one in which **the Word of Christ** richly dwells. It's the *foundation* for *faith*.

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

~Romans 10:17

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you (**vs. 16a**)...

The word of Christ...Gk. *logos*, refers to *the revelation that Christ brought into the world*...which is *Scripture*.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

~John 1:1, 14

*“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

~Hebrews 4:12

Dwell...Gk. *enoikeo*, means *to be at home...to live in...to take up residence*. Paul calls upon believers to **let the Word take up residence** and *to be at home* in their lives.

**Richly**...Gk. *plousios*, can also be translated *abundantly* or *extravagantly rich*.

The *truth of Scripture* should *permeate* every aspect of the believer's life...and it should *govern* every *thought, word, and deed*. It is the basis for a *Biblical world view*. For this to happen the Christian must *read, study, meditate, live, and apply* the **Word**.

To let the word of Christ richly dwell in us is *synonymous* and *identical* to being *filled with the Holy Spirit*. And the result of being *filled with the Holy Spirit* is the same as the result of letting **the Word dwell** in one's life **richly**. The two are *the same spiritual reality* viewed from *two different sides*. To be filled *with the Spirit* is to be *controlled by His Word*. To have **the Word dwelling richly** is to be *controlled by His Spirit*. Since the Holy Spirit is the *author* and the *power* of the **Word**, the expressions are *interchangeable*.

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*

~John 14:26

The **Word** that dwells in the *heart* and *mind* is the means by which the Spirit *shapes the will*.

Two of the greatest issues facing Christianity in the West are...

- *The Bible's growing lack of authority in the Church*, and...
- *The lack of transformed lives among those who attend church*.

The same two issues confronted *Christians* in the early *sixteenth century*...1517, it ended up starting the **Protestant Reformation**.

**II. THE WITNESS OF CHRIST: (vs. 16b)**

With all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (**vs. 16b**)...

Through this *Spirit-filled life* we gain **wisdom**...and therefore we are able to *edify one another*.

*“...Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father”*

~ Ephesians 5:18b-20

**Paul** mentions *two specific results* of the **Word of Christ** dwelling in the believer...*one positive...one negative*.

**Teaching**...the *positive* one...*the impartation of truth*.

*Proclamation, encouragement, and exhortation*. Teaching about *heaven, the love of God, salvation*, etc.

**Admonishing**...the *negative* one...to *rebuke* or to *reproof*. It means *to warn people of the consequences of their behavior...the consequences of sin*. Teaching about *hell, the judgment of God*, etc.

Both are the result of *a life overflowing* with the **Word of Christ**.

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

~II Timothy 3:16-17

Having the **Word of Christ** richly dwell *in us* produces not only *knowledge* and *truth* and *information*...but also *emotion, passion, and gratitude*. It generates *psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*.

**Psalms**...the *great anthems*. Those taken from the Old Testament *psalter*...the book of **Psalms**. They sang **Psalms** put to music...much as we still do today.

**Hymns**...*doctrine* and *Biblical truth* put to *music*. Expressions of *faith* and *praise* to God for *who* He is and *what* He does/promises.

**Spiritual songs**...typically *scripture* put to *music*. *Choruses* that usually emphasizes *testimony*. They express what God *has done* and *is doing* in one's life.

### III. THE GRATITUDE FOR CHRIST: (vs. 16c)

**Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (vs.16c)**...

Three times in three verses Paul mentioned thankfulness.

- Verse 15...Be thankful.
- Verse 16...Sing with thankfulness.
- Verse 17...Give thanks to God the Father.

When we *sing praises* to God...we must be conscience that we are *singing from our hearts* to God...and not just *singing from our lips* to people around us. That our singing is *vertical*...towards *heaven*... and *not horizontal*...a *performance*.

**Thankfulness**...can also be translated *grace*. The thought is that it encompasses both ideas...*grace* and **thankfulness**. As a believer, we sing out of **thankfulness** for God's *grace*.

**Paul** is concerned that the **heart agrees** with the **mouth**. Singing is to be *directed to* God...*offered to* Him for His *glory*.

### IV. THE NAME OF CHRIST: (vs. 17)

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

The simplest, most basic rule for living the *victorious Christian life* is to *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus*.

To *do everything in the name of Jesus* is to *act consistently* with *who He is* and *what He wants*. Having the *mind of Christ (vs. 2)*.

*“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

~I Corinthians 10:31

**Giving thanks through Him to God the Father**...to be done *joyfully*...not *reluctantly* or *hesitantly* or out of *legalistic duty*. Done with a *pure heart* and a *clear conscience*.

The proper response is one that *attributes to* God that which is *rightfully due* Him...all *glory, honor, and praise (Revelation 4, 5, 7, and 22)*.

### LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- To let the word of Christ richly dwell in us is *identical* to being *filled* with the **HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 5:18-20)**. The **Word** that *dwells* in the *heart* and *mind* is the means by which the **Spirit** shapes the *will*.
- To *put on* the new *lifestyle of a believer* is to *put on* **CHRIST**. The goal of the Christian life is **CHRISTLIKENESS**. Believers should so clothe themselves with Jesus Christ that when people look at them, they see Christ.
- **SINGING** is to be directed to God as *praise* and *worship*...offered to Him for His *pleasure (Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:19)* and *glory*. That it may be *edifying* to believers is a *by-product* of its *main purpose*.

### **Colossians 3:1-17**

**1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

**10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— **11** a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

**12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion,

kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**16** 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. **17** Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.