

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST
LETTING CHRIST'S PEACE RULE – PART 4 OF 4
COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The message of Christ must be **completely** understood, not only in an intellectual sense, but it must have an intimate **association** with us (Col 3:16).
2. The Holy Spirit **dwells in** the believer (2 Tim. 1:14).
3. **God** indwells the Christian and **faith** also indwells the redeemed (2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 1:15).
4. With the Holy Spirit, God, and faith all indwelling in intimate association with the believer, the result should most certainly be **total wisdom**.

KEY THOUGHT: As we teach and admonish each other, we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as we live with **grace filling** our hearts (Col. 3:16-17).

I. BE CONTROLLED BY THE WORD OF CHRIST (COL. 3:16).

- A. A New Testament church is **clothed** in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; **lives** forbearance and forgiveness; and is **covered** with love (Col. 3:12-14).
 1. The Word of Christ takes up **residence** in our lives (Col. 3:16).
 2. Being controlled by the Word of Christ is the same as being **filled** with the **Spirit** (Eph. 5:18).
 3. To be **filled** with the Spirit is to be **controlled** by His Word (Col. 3:18–4:1; Eph. 5:19-6:9).
- B. There are **two** results of the Word of Christ dwelling in the believer (Col. 3:16).
 1. **Teaching** = sharing of how to live
 2. **Admonishing** = warning of the consequences of ungodly behavior

KEY THOUGHT: The Word of Christ richly dwelling in a believer's life evokes strong **emotion** of overwhelming **thankfulness** of God's **grace** (Col. 3:16).

II. BE CONSTRAINED BY THE NAME OF CHRIST (COL. 3:17).

A. To do everything in the name of Jesus is to act consistently with who He **is** and what He **wants** (Col. 3:17).

B. No matter what you are doing, do it to the **glory** of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

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

C. Put on the **lifestyle** of Jesus (Rom. 13:14).

KEY THOUGHT: Believers should **clothe** themselves with Jesus Christ so, when people see them, they see **Jesus** (Col. 3:12-14).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

October 30, 2011

SUNDAY: *The Word of Christ is to be understood at the personal level (Col. 3:16)!*

The passage begins with a command for the Word of Christ to richly “be at home” in your life (Col. 3:16). The truths of Jesus’ revelation, the Bible, should permeate every corner of the believer’s life and govern every thought, word, and deed. We need to hear the Word (Matt. 13:9), handle it (2 Tim. 2:15), hide it (Ps. 119:11), and offer it to others (Phil. 2:16). This demands that the believer read the Bible, memorize it, and live it. The Word of Christ must be completely understood at the personal level. The Spirit of God dwells in the believer (2 Tim. 1:14). God’s intimate presence in the life of a believer means that the total wisdom of Scripture is within one’s grasp. The act of living in Christ, teaching and admonishing each other, must be covered with the grace of Christ filling our hearts (Col. 3:16-17). Pause and ask the Lord to help you fill your heart with His grace. Rejoice in the grace that redeemed and saved you by extending it unconditionally to others. ***May the grace of God soften your reckless heart to love others as Jesus would!***

MONDAY: *Be controlled by the Word of Christ (Col. 3:16)!*

The New Testament church is made up of a collection of believers in a local area. Each believer is to be clothed in the virtues of Christ (Col. 3:12). Each is to practice the examples of our Lord toward one another (3:13). The overarching element of our lives must be a self-emptying love (3:14). Do you know many Christians who live this way? How is this possible? The Word of Christ is to take up residence in our lives (3:16). Being controlled by the Word of Christ is the same as being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). In other words, being filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by His Word (Col. 3:18-4:1; Eph. 5:19-6:9). Ask the Lord to help you understand the Word of Christ at a personal level. Pray for His control to be complete in your life. ***May the control of God’s Word and Spirit become a craving deep within your spirit!***

TUESDAY: *The Word of Christ directs and corrects our lives as believers (Col. 3:16)!*

The Bible is studied and intellectually analyzed by Christians but is far less often grasped at a personal level. The principles of scripture relating to godly behavior can be recited accurately, but their application is rarely realized in the heat of a moment. Two results come from the Word of Christ dwelling in the believer (Col. 3:16). One is the teaching of how to live to please and glorify God. The second is to lovingly warn one another of the consequences of ungodly behavior. Christians focus on the former and tend to shy away from the latter. Admonishment is often received with contempt and accusation by the Christian struggling with sin, thus the obedient Christian learns to keep a healthy distance in the future from that contentious believer. The result is that sin continues, and the loving protection of warning is crushed. Pray that you will become controlled by the Word of Christ, willing to receive help when you are straying near sin in your life. ***May the Lord guard your heart and mind with His peace!***

WEDNESDAY: ***The indwelling Word evokes strong emotion in the believer (Col. 3:16)!***

The Word is supposed to evoke an emotional response. The Word is to be far more than a source of information and intellectual stimulation. The hymns were worship songs designed to stir deep feelings of gratitude and reverence. The spiritual songs were testimonies that expressed what God has done for us personally. From these two experiences a deep-seated thankfulness would well-up and consume the believer (Col. 3:16). Life in Christ was to be a moving, emotional experience of grace and mercy that transformed the recipient to become an earthly representative of Jesus Christ. The seat of one's emotions should be expressed with the way worship is expressed through singing and praise. Ask the Lord to convict you of your lack of emotion when you read His word. Pray for the Spirit to fall on you in such a way that you are overwhelmed with the beauty and grace of the Lord. ***May your personal time reading the Bible be transformed by the Spirit into a time of absolute worship and communion with the Lord God!***

THURSDAY: ***Do everything for the glory of God (Col. 3:17)!***

The name of Jesus should constrain the behavior of the Christian (Col. 3:17). Wouldn't it be great if gossip would choke in the Christian's throat and evil thoughts about others would cause heartburn? Imagine losing your train of thought whenever you began criticizing another believer, or anyone for that matter. Instead, think of the endorphin rush when everything you did brought glory to the Lord! How you ordered at the drive-thru or answered a telemarketer during dinner? Can you see yourself praising the driver that just cut you off? Gracious words honestly complimenting your co-worker for the project they just completed? This includes when you are speaking, thinking, driving, eating, watching television, listening to the radio, and listening to someone else. Ask the Lord to remind you constantly that you are to do everything for the glory of God! ***May this truth bring tremendous control to your life in Christ!***

FRIDAY: ***Put on the lifestyle of Jesus (Rom. 13:14)!***

These past few weeks have all been about putting on the lifestyle of Jesus (Rom. 13:14). Knowledge of the Bible is important, but not more important than the application of its precious principles. If a believer simply put on the garments of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience every day, it would be amazing how all the other principles of scripture would be adhered to in life. Choosing not to become angry and simply forbear with others' sin and slights would be huge. Opting for forgiveness in the manner that Jesus forgave us would be life-changing. It is truly a shame that Christians emphasize the intellectual and not the imminently practical side of their faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind with the peace of Christ. Pray that whatever you do will be to the glory of God! ***May these simple truths dominate your life in the days ahead!***

SATURDAY: ***People should see Jesus when they see you (Col. 3:12-14)!***

Do not grow weary in doing good and being a blessing to others! People should see Jesus in you all day long (Col. 3:12-14). Will some take advantage of you? They probably will. Who cares! Let it all be done to the glory of God! Clothe yourself in the garments of Christ's virtues. Submit to the overwhelming emotion of grace and agape love that God has showered your life with to bring your salvation. Read Colossians 3 slowly and think through each of the principles and concepts Paul presents. Obey the command to put on the virtues of Christ. Follow Jesus' examples of forbearance and forgiveness. Embrace the three priorities of the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ, and the name of Christ. Ask for the strength to live for Christ and Him alone. ***May this paradigm shift bring an entirely new perspective to your life and ministry!***