

Let the Word of Christ Richly Dwell

Col 3:16

Pastor/Elder Phil Layton, GCBC: January 31, 2021

TURN TO COL 3, ASK JEDEIAH TO HELP READ COL 3:1-17

Talk about young and old—blessings of Word dwelling in us richly in v. 16.

MENTION sermon note sheets for kids, and adults (feel free to get up, get).

Goal of Col 3:16: Christ's Word to be in us more deeply so we can speak it.

These note sheets will have application questions to help enrich discussions.

Message title is 1st part of v. 16: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... reminds me of Ps 119:11, the version I learned says 'Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You' (NASB). To hide or store up the Word is the idea of something valuable you treasure, as hidden treasure, riches in your dwelling (safe place). Memorizing the Word is like a treasure box in our heart, it richly dwells in us so we can share with others.

3:16 should spur us on who are older to memorize and internalize the Word.

Challenge to all ages: memorize v. 16-17 before next week (I'll finish it in pt 2).

Extra credit: go back to v. 12 and start there and keep up as we go.

If you want to keep up with a 6th grader: go back to v. 1 and memorize more.

Don't think you're too old to memorize a verse or two or more. Before WWII an old villager 'in eastern Poland received a Bible from a...visit[or to] his small hamlet. He read it, was converted, and passed the book on to others. Through that one Bible two hundred more became believers... Michael Billester, revisited the town in the summer of 1940 [and asked if they could] recite verses of Scripture. [A confused villager] asked, "Perhaps we have misunderstood. Did you mean verses or chapters?" [Billester replied] "Do you mean to say there are people here who can recite chapters of the Bible?" ... Those villagers had memorized, not only chapters, but whole books of the Bible. Thirteen knew Matthew and Luke and half of Genesis. One had committed all the Psalms to memory...Passed around from family to family and brought to the gathering on Sundays, the old Book had become so worn with use that its pages were hardly legible. [from the] *Sunday School Times*¹

Many of us have many Bibles in our homes where we dwell, but how much of the Bible dwells in us? How much can we say it to others? In v. 16, the idea of '*richly dwell*' is abundantly or lavishly, there's more than enough sufficiency in the Word.

Earlier in the service the scripture reading said I delight in the Word '*as much as in all riches*' (Ps 119:14). It later says '*I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure*' (v. 162 NKJV). Job 23:12 '*I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my ... food.*'

Pr 2 NAS '*receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you...apply your heart to understanding...search...as for hidden treasure...*'

That's how to let richly dwell the word of Christ who is our greatest treasure.

Kent Hughes began to experience this verse I think about an hour from here in middle school. His testimony: 'one night, in a rustic chapel high in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains, I met Christ. I yet remember the aroma of that room, the cedar and the redwood, the expression of the man who talked with me ... That night after "lights out," I scooted down in my sleeping bag and switched on my flashlight. There I opened the tiny India-paper Bible which my grandmother had given me when I was seven years old and reread the verses that I had underlined in the chapel that night...The Word of Christ ... is it ever rich! That night when I was deep in my sleeping bag, with flashlight on, turning the pages of my Bible with my grimy fingers, reading verse after verse, the Word...was dwelling richly within me.'² [like v. 16]

I pray the Lord will shine His light on His Word to illuminate and enrich us.

The theme of Colossians is the supremacy of Christ, here in 3:16, Christ's Word is to have the supreme place in you as it richly dwells. In the context, Col 2 talked about '*all the riches...in Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom...*' (v. 2-3), now 3:16 says as the Word of Christ richly dwells in you, we can teach and admonish one another with that wisdom in Christ. As we go from here, this command would have us talk about the word we hear.

Talk about Puritan experiential preaching, take single truth to bring home. That word *dwell* in Col 3:16 means bringing home, or being at home. The classic Puritan outline is the main teaching of verse, then uses. Usually not big passages, often just a verse or part of it to mine its riches (Col 3 is rich!)

Last week we studied v. 15 '*let the peace of Christ rule,*' this week in v. 16 '*let the word of Christ richly dwell* – in fellowship and worship (2 parts).

Christ's Word affects our speaking (part 1 for today) and singing (part 2).

Next week we'll look at worship, *singing psalms, hymn, and spiritual songs*, today we'll focus on fellowship, *teaching and admonishing one another...*

Another way to say fellowship is 'relationship around the Word of Christ.'

The Bible's usually called 'Word of God' but it's also the Word of Christ as He is God. John 1 begins '*the Word was with God and the Word was God ...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*' (1:1, 14). That's Jesus Christ, Col 3:16 says the Word of Christ is to dwell, not just among us, in us

The whole Bible is the Word of Christ, it all bears witness to Him and leads us to Him. '*Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of Christ*' (Rom 10:17). But He told unbelievers in Jn 5:38 '*You have never heard his voice...nor does his word **dwell in you**, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures...the Scriptures...testify about me.*'³

He said true disciples abide in His Word, His Word abides/dwells in them.⁴

1 Jn 2:24 *If what you heard... abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.* That's the idea when what we hear from His Word abides or dwells in us, we dwell or abide in the Son and the Father. And the Spirit who inspired the Word, He dwells in us, and teaches us of Christ. So this is the Word of a triune God (triune=3-in-1), but it's especially here the Word of Christ (about Christ, His words in the gospel). It's not just about being in the Word of Christ, it's about the Christ of the Word being in us.

As you read it, it reads you. You open it up and it opens you up.

Outline – Let's Christ's Word Richly Dwell In You By ...

- 1. Meditation in the Word**
- 2. Conversation from the Word**

1st. Meditation (v. 16 “*let [it] dwell in you richly...*”)

That parallels the context of v. 15: *let the peace of Christ rule your heart...*

Dwell in v. 16 can be interchanged with *meditate* in Phil 4:8 (NAS / NKJV).

v. 16 *Let dwell* is pres. impv.= repeated action, habit, daily, continual, 24/7.

Psalm 1:2 -delights in Word so he meditates day and night, and is blessed.

The key to abiding in His Word is delighting in it (Ps 119:97-*O how I love*).

Quote Josh. 1:8—as we meditate on His Word *in us*, He's *with us* as we go.

We need time in the Bible each day, and time for the Bible to be in us daily.

Ps 63:6 ‘I meditate on you in the night watches’ (NKJV)

My mind's hard to turn off at night or if I wake up in the middle of the night –I've had to battle unhelpful or unhealthy thoughts, discouraging or anxious thoughts recently. It's easy for me to spiral into self, I need scripture in me. I can have the paralysis of analysis or replay the words of Christians I know, but I need the riches of the Word of Christ. I let me mind dwell on many things but I needed this verse this weekend, let the word dwell in you richly.

We're transformed by the renewing of _____. We take every thought _____

Ps 145:5 ‘I will meditate on your wonderful works’ (NIV)

APPLICATION TO MEDITATE AT NIGHT: **ABC'S OF JESUS**

TALKING ABOUT **READING WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS, PAUSE**

MEMORIZING – FUEL FOR MEDITATING (FIGHTER VERSES)

HEARING GOD'S WORD – TAKE NOTES TO MEDITATE ON AFTER

The commentators say *dwell* means ‘live, occupy, reside, find a home, be at home, make one's home, have a permanent dwelling.’⁵ Other translations:

‘*Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts...*’ (NLT)

Paraphrases: ‘Let the teaching concerning Christ remain as a rich treasure in your hearts / Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts’ (Phillips / Weymouth)

‘let [the Word] be continually at home in you in abundance’ (Wuest's NT)

Think at home how well you know where things are vs. others' homes.

Don't just let the Word drive by your home. Let God drive it home in you.

It's not like the mailman or Amazon driver who doesn't come in your home, you just wave to or sign so he can check a box. This isn't door dash where a guy drops off food and dashes off but no relationship. It's not like a stranger at your door where you look through the peephole and see him distorted, or maybe open it but you keep the sliding lock on to not let come in very far.

This is to swing open the door to your home, welcome, make part of meals, etc. When you do that, you find this house guest actually provides the meal, the best ever! And the Word of Christ cleans up after. It helps you go to sleep, and start the day! More than a guest, the Word of Christ is to become the Master of the house! He's not just a resident, Christ is to be dominant.

Matthew Henry said Christ and His Word 'must dwell in us, or keep house, not as a servant in a family, who is under another's control, but as a master, who has a right to prescribe to and direct all under his roof. We must take our instructions and directions from it, and our portion of meat and strength ...as from the master of the household. It must dwell in us; that is, be always ready and at hand to us in every thing, and have its due influence and use.'

And we're to give Him access to every room and closet. Remember Beauty and the Beast? She dwelt with him in his castle, but not richly or fully. He told her to join her for a dinner, but it was not a request! His word to her: 'The castle is your home now, so you can go anywhere you like except the west wing.' Belle: 'What's in the west...'
Beast: 'It's forbidden!' That's not how Christ Word is in us, it's to dwell richly and fully, nothing is forbidden.

Welcome His Word, let it have a home in your life, let it live in you.

How do you welcome it so it can dwell or live in you? When I was down in L.A. earlier this month some dear friends of mine I've known for 23 years they welcomed me into their home. They made room, even rearranging the room, and rearranged their lives for me to stay. In the evenings they would share with me and I would share words with them and they were genuinely interested in my words and made me a part of their life those days. APPLY

If you make yourself at home in a guest room where you live, it's changed by your presence, you bring your possessions, fill the drawers, settle, etc.

What do we have to rearrange and clean up so the Word can be at home?

QUOTE JAMES 1:21 – Bible keeps you from sin, sin keeps you from Bible

QUOTE 1 PETER 2:1-3 – TALK ABOUT COREY'S MESSAGE/APPLY

On the idea of tasting and seeing the Lord is good, Spurgeon said the words of Christ 'will be all the sweeter to you if you realize that they speak to you of Christ...direct you to Christ...come to us from Christ...let it be your most familiar friend.

We know the people who live in our home...live with "the word of Christ"...let it dwell in you, and abide with you as a constant friend

...Do you want wisdom with which to master yourself? "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly [with all wisdom]." Do you need something to cheer a naturally sinking spirit? "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Do you wish for that which will calm [your] angry mind...? "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Are you in a calling where you are sorely tempted, and do you long to know how to be kept from falling into sin? "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Is your position a very difficult one? Are you scarcely able to balance the claims of different relationships? "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Are you expecting to have a time of intense strain and trial such as you have never experienced before? Prepare yourself for it by letting "the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

Ps 19 says the Word has more riches than fine gold, sweeter than honey. Then it prays for the meditation of our heart to be pleasing to the Lord.

Some people mark up their Bible, but is the Bible leaving its mark on you? The Bible's often called 'the living Word,' Paul says let it live/dwell in you.

**First, by Meditation on it,
2ndly in Conversation from it (closing point)**

Look at Col 3:16 again: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...* (singing part will be part 2)

Don't think formal professional teaching, think conversational *one another*. The Word enriches how we interact. What's in you comes into conversation

The Word is to be at home in us so we'll talk about with others at our home.

Dt 6:7 says of the words of the Lord '*talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise... write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*'

This should also happen at the house of God. In v. 16, *in you* is 'plural form [that] means "in your assembly" not simply in each one of you personally ...Personal opinion must bow to Christ's word. Personal feelings must yield to what Christ says. Individual ideas must bow to Christ's...word.'⁶ 1 Pet 4:11: *If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ (NIV).*

In Col 3:16 the reflexive pronoun can mean 'reciprocal manner and pictures the back-and-forth nature of the fellowship'⁷ (dialogue not monologue). In other words, this isn't lecturing each other, it's listening, too, give and take.

READ Col 1:28, not just Paul or pastors ministry, 'every man/one another.'
Mt 28:19 '*make disciples, teaching them to obey all I commanded you...*'

That's the discipleship process, teaching that every Christian does.

Rom 15:13 mentioned a couple weeks ago re: women helping women

ADMONISHING – lit. ‘put in mind,’ instruct, even warn, alter to behavior. Nouthetic counsel comes from this word, to advise or correct by the Word. Not psychological therapy but a scriptural remedy to spiritual issues or sin. It’s implied you have a relationship with this person, he or she is thinking or living wrongly and maybe even dangerously, and you want to help/restore.

Not just for leaders, also for all believers. 1 Thess 5:14: *brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.*

There are pastors/shepherds and teachers, but teaching and admonishing and ministry isn’t just what they do, the ministry is what you do, as you speak too.

Eph 4:11 says God gave ‘*the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry...*’ that’s you, the church, saints means set apart, you’re set apart to do the work of ministry. Leaders equip, not eclipse your ministry.

Ministry is just the word for service, it starts in building up the body in v. 12.

NIV says we ‘*prepare God’s people for works of service...*’ and v. 15 gives a practical example of that service or ministry: ‘*speaking the truth in love...¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*’

We all have a part to play and work to do in the body of Christ and part of it is speaking the truth in love (think of that to fill out *admonishing* in Col 3:16).

Last phrase we’ll look at in v. 16 says this is ‘with all wisdom.’ We need to pray for wisdom, especially if about to speak like this (examples this week)

9Marks of a Healthy Church Member: ‘Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God...encouraged you?” Encourage others by sharing things you learned about God and his Word during the sermon. Make particular note of how your thinking has changed because of the meaning of Scripture itself...

Don’t let the Sunday sermon become a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications... and prayerfully put them into practice over the coming week... With your pastor’s support, establish small groups that review and apply the sermons. Or, use the sermons and your notes as a resource in one-on-one discipleship relationship. I know of several families that have a regular sermon-review time as their...evening family devo...’

NOTE SHEETS AT BACK–RESOURCE FOR GROUPS AND GROWTH

How to use

Sample Questions

Notes for Kids

TALK CARE, CONNECTION, COMMUNITY – IN CHRIST’S WORD

TALK ABOUT ALMOST 100 MOVING OUT OF STATE SINCE 2017,
23 WHO ATTENDED GCBC WENT TO HEAVEN IN THOSE YEARS

Mention interactive small groups, Women Helping Women class, ladies available to help during week, Women’s Study on Mondays, men’s groups

That’s biblical fellowship. And Col 3:14 says what binds us together is love

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts In Christian love
The fellowship Of kindred minds Is like to that above ...
[this is life on life] We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear;
And often For each other flows The sympathizing tear ... [that’s body life]
Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent pray’rs
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one Our comforts And our cares

Let’s bring those prayers to our Father’s throne now.

More specific questions from today’s text you cans use for above:

1. What does this text mean for God’s Word to dwell / be at home in you? How do you know if this is taking place?
2. What distractions or substitutes are robbing you the Word being in you richly?
3. Do you have a planned time to read, study, and memorize the Word? If not, or you want accountability or encouragement on how, talk to a mature believer.
4. “This Word will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this Word.” As you think of James 1:21 or 1 Peter 2:1-3 (Pastor Corey’s message 2 weeks ago) talk about that dynamic more with someone. If there is a specific sin you haven’t dealt with, talk to the Lord now (and others if needed)
5. When it mentions “teaching and admonishing one another, with all wisdom”, where do you need wisdom for this in your family or church family? How can you pursue this further this week in conversations and speaking truth in love?

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 196.

² R. Kent Hughes, *Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ*, Preaching the Word (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 111.

³ NIV.

⁴ John 8:31, 15:7.

⁵ Martha King, *An Exegetical Summary of Colossians*, 274.

⁶ John Kitchen, *Colossians and Philemon for Pastors*, p. 270-71.

⁷ Kitchen, 271.