

Exclusive Psalmody and Colossians 3:16

A. Review: #1: Regulative Principle; #2: Biblical Transitions in Worship; #3: Occasional Celebrations vs. Stated Worship; #4: Typology of Temple Instruments; #5: Origin of New Testament Praise; #6: Exclusive Psalmody.

B. Colossians 3:16 is a worship text.

1. Note the corporate emphasis in the text itself: within you (pl), one another, in your (pl) hearts.

2. Note the corporate emphasis in the immediate context.

a. Colossians 3:1 - Therefore if you (pl) have been raised up with Christ.

b. Colossians 3:2 - Set your (pl) mind on the things above.

c. Colossians 3:3 - For you (pl) have died and your (pl) life is hidden with Christ in God.

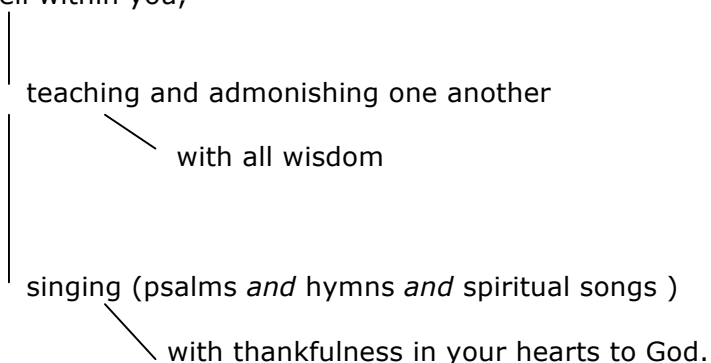
d. So throughout the passage.

3. Paul refers to teaching and admonishing. He uses these same terms in Colossians 1:28 where he defines teaching and admonishing as preaching or proclamation. "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom." Proclamation consisting of teaching and admonition is a corporate activity.

4. The singing, teaching, and admonishing Paul discusses in Colossians 3:16 therefore seems to be part of the worship setting.

C. The outline of Colossians 3:16:

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,



1. "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" (NASB).

2. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (ESV).

3. The phrase, "with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," more logically goes with "singing" rather than with "teaching" as in the ESV.

4. If this is correct, Paul defines the singing more narrowly than teaching.

C. To further understand the text, we need to get into Paul's head. Paul's basic Bible was the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament. We therefore ask, "What does Paul mean by psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs?"

1. See the review of selected Psalm titles.

2. Psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs in Colossians 3:16 refer to the 150 Psalm of the Old Testament.

Selected Psalm Titles

NAU Psalm 6:1 <For the choir director; with stringed instruments, upon an eight-string lyre. A Psalm of David.> O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your wrath.

LXT Psalm 6:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ἐν ὕμνοις ὑπὲρ τῆς ὀγδόης ψαλμὸς τῷ Δαυιδ 2 κύριε μὴ τῷ θυμῷ σου ἐλέγξῃς με μηδὲ τῇ ὀργῇ σου παιδεύῃς με

NAU Psalm 61:1 <For the choir director; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David.> Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer.

LXT Psalm 60:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ἐν ὕμνοις τῷ Δαυιδ 2 εἰσάκουσον ὁ θεὸς τῆς δεήσεώς μου πρόσχες τῇ προσευχῇ μου

NAU Psalm 72:20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

LXT Psalm 71:20 ἐξέλιπον οἱ ὕμνοι Δαυιδ τοῦ υἱοῦ Ἰεσσαί

NAU Psalm 76:1 <For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.> God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

LXT Psalm 75:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ἐν ὕμνοις ψαλμὸς τῷ Ασαφ ᾠδὴ πρὸς τὸν Ἀσσύριον γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ θεὸς ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ

NAU Psalm 65:1 <For the choir director. A Psalm of David. A Song.> There will be silence before You, and praise in Zion, O God, And to You the vow will be performed.

LXT Psalm 64:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ψαλμὸς τῷ Δαυιδ ᾠδὴ Ἰερεμίου καὶ Ἰεζεκιηλ ἐκ τοῦ λόγου τῆς παροικίας ὅτε ἔμελλον ἐκπορεύεσθαι 2 σοὶ πρέπει ὕμνος ὁ θεὸς ἐν Σιών καὶ σοὶ ἀποδοθήσεται εὐχὴ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴ

NAU Psalm 66:1 <For the choir director. A Song. A Psalm.> Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;

LXT Psalm 65:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ᾠδὴ ψαλμοῦ ἀναστάσεως ἀλαλάξατε τῷ θεῷ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ

NAU Psalm 67:1 <For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.> God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us

LXT Psalm 66:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ἐν ὕμνοις ψαλμὸς ᾠδῆς ὁ θεὸς οἰκτιρήσαι ἡμᾶς καὶ εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς διάψαλμα

NAU Psalm 68:1 <For the choir director. A Psalm of David. A Song.> Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, And let those who hate Him flee before Him.

LXT Psalm 67:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος τῷ Δαυιδ ψαλμὸς ᾠδῆς ἀναστήτω ὁ θεὸς καὶ διασκορπισθήτωσαν οἱ ἐχθροὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ φυγέτωσαν οἱ μισοῦντες αὐτὸν ἀπὸ προσώπου αὐτοῦ

NAU Psalm 75:1 <For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.> We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks, For Your name is near; Men declare Your wondrous works.

LXT Psalm 74:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος μὴ διαφθείρης ψαλμὸς τῷ Ασαφ ᾠδῆς ἐξομολογησόμεθά σοι ὁ θεὸς ἐξομολογησόμεθα καὶ ἐπικαλεσόμεθα τὸ ὄνομα σου

NAU Psalm 76:1 <For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.> God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

LXT Psalm 75:1 εἰς τὸ τέλος ἐν ὕμνοις ψαλμὸς τῷ Ασαφ ᾠδὴ πρὸς τὸν Ἀσσύριον 2 γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ θεὸς ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ