

Word of Christ In Us

Colossians 3:16

'The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood'

We face two obstacles in teaching –

1. Getting hearer to understand
2. Getting hearer to hear

Colossians 3:16 addresses our need

I. The Word

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
in all wisdom . . .

Perfect place for Paul to say . . .

- Listen for voice of God, as Gn.2-3.
- Listen for voices of prophets.
- Seek visions for guidance. Nu.12:6.
- Interpret dreams. Nu.12:6; Mt.1-2.
- Watch for signs. Jer.13.
- Put faith in scholars.

Paul writes words of gospel

- Col.4:16 – the standard for . . .

All Christians

All churches

- Power of written word: Mt.4:4
 1. 1 Co.14:37, wrote Lord's commands
 2. Ep.3:4, read: full understanding
 3. 1 Th.5:27, read: to all Christians
 4. 2 Th.2:2, equal to spoken word
 5. 2 Th.2:15, hold fast
 6. Hb.1:1-2, God through Son (4:4)

Scripture provides . . .

- **Certainty, Lk.1:3-4**
- **True discipleship, truth, Jn.8:31-32; 17:17**
- **All necessary things Jesus did, Jn.20:30-31**
- **Edification, Ac.20:32**
- **Encouragement, Ro.15:4**
- **Commands of God, 1 Co.14:37**
- **Revelation of mysteries, Ep.3:3-5**
- **Every good work, 2 Tim.3:16-17**
- **Memory of apostles' words, 2 Pt.1:15**
- **Fellowship: apostles, Father, Son, 1 Jn.1:3**
- **Full joy, 1 Jn.1:4**
- **Protection against sin, 1 Jn.2:1-2**

**What else
do we need?**

I. The Word

II. Of Christ

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
in all wisdom . . .

“Of Christ” implies . . .

1. He is Giver of words **and** their Theme.
Jn.6:68

2. Exclusive – His words. Col.2.

Cheated
2:8

OR

Completed
2:9-10

3. Beware counterfeits: satan also has messengers, 2 Co.11:13-15.

I. The Word

II. Of Christ

III. Let Dwell

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
in all wisdom . . .

'Let dwell' – imperative

Implications –

1. We must learn what this means.
2. We must do it.

Jer.8:1-2, **idols**

Loved

Served

Walked

Sought

Worshiped

Ezk.14:3-4,

set up idols

'in their hearts'

(indwelling)

5, 7, estranged

Ro.7:17, 20, sin

'Let dwell' – imperative

Implications –

1. We must learn what this means.
2. We must do it.

Jer.31:33

Law in **minds**

Write it

on their **hearts**

Their God;

My **people**

Ezk.36:26-28

New **heart/spirit**

My Spirit w/in

Heart of flesh

My **people**;

Your God

'Let dwell' – imperative

Implications –

1. We must learn what this means.
2. We must do it.

Romans 7:17-25

Sin dwells in me

Nothing good

dwells in me

Another law in
my members, 23

Flesh: law of sin

Romans 8:9

Not in flesh but in
the Spirit

Sp. dwells in, 11

Walk according to
Spirit, 4-5

Law of Spirit, 2

Ephesians 5:18-20

Holy Spirit

Be filled with (pres. imper.)

Spirit

Speak to one another

Psalms, Hymns,
Spiritual songs

Singing, making
melody in heart

To the Lord

Always giving thanks

Colossians 3:16-17

Holy Word

Let dwell in (pres. imper.)

Word

Teach / Admonish . . .

Psalms, Hymns,
Spiritual songs

Singing, thankfulness
in heart

To God

Giving thanks

'Let dwell' – present

Word of Christ is not . . .

- a stranger
- an occasional guest

Word of Christ dwells in us –
continuous, permanent relationship

Our heart holds
the word of Christ

I. The Word

II. Of Christ

III. Let Dwell

IV. Richly

Let the word of Christ dwell in you **richly**
in all wisdom . . .

'Richly'

- Pertaining to that which exists in a large amount, with the implication of its being valuable – 'in large amount, in abundance, rich, richly'

'Richly' – not satisfied with . . .

- Ignorance
- Knowledge in others
- Little knowledge in self
- Mere knowledge
- Mere ability to answer errors
- Dual occupancy: share word with sin
- Growth for a while

Word dwells in us 'Richly'

- Fully under its influence
 - Not a temporary guest
 - Not occupying one room
- 1.** The word takes control (dwells in) the whole house.
- 2.** The word dwells there forever

This permanent resident feeds us.
To world, you are a scholar.

I. The Word

II. Of Christ

III. Let Dwell

IV. Richly

V. In You

Let the word of Christ dwell **in you** richly
in all wisdom . . .

How to put out the welcome mat?

1. **Study** (daily) 16.
2. **Savor** (meditate, 4:6; Ps.1).
3. **Submit** (obey, 3:17).
4. **Share** (teach, 4:3; 1:25).
5. **Seek** (as though life depends upon it – it does, 3:4).