**COLOSSIANS #171 (4-21-15)** COL. 3, pg. 171

***Colossians 3:16 Let the word*** [LOGOS] ***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.***

***Word of Christ*** mentioned in other passages:

***Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26) so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory …***

***Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.***

***1 Thessalonians 1:8 …or the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you,***

***Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.***

***Psalm 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.***

***Richly dwell within you…***

***Richly***, PLOUSIOS sadv. pertaining to that which exists in a large amount with the implication of its being valuable in large amount, in abundance, or richly.

***Dwell,*** ENOIKEO v. pam; a com pound word: EN, in + OIKEO, to dwell = to live in or to dwell in something.

People are very familiar with the place they live. They know where each room is, where the bathrooms are, where the closets are, where the breaker box is, and can maybe even find them in the dark, etc. We should be just as familiar with our Bibles as we are with the place where we live.

We cannot obey this command to ***“let the word of Christ richly dwell within you”,*** unless we dwell in the Word. So, the peace of Christ will never rule in our hearts unless the Word of Christ richly dwells in our hearts. And the Word of Christ will never richly dwell in our hearts unless we dwell in the Word!

*“We cannot flip the pages of the Bible and blindly put our finger on a verse and claim it. The Bible is not a good luck charm or magic book. We must systematically study the Bible and memorize pertinent verses to deal with weak areas of our Christian life.*

***Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7) You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall 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 up.***

***Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.***

***Job 22:22 Please receive instruction from His mouth and establish His words in your heart.***

***Job 23:12 … I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.***

***Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;***

Growing to spiritual maturity takes time, effort and dedication. Most believers don’t make it because they get bored or distracted and lose interest in doctrine.

What do you call the place where you live? Home. Most believers are not at home in the Word because they don’t live there; they only visit it from time to time.

The Word of God is to dwell WITHIN us. There is a big difference in talking about the Bible and expressing the Word of God from a sincere conviction that comes from deep within us.

God’s Word changes the way we think, so it changes who we are. When the Word richly dwells within us, then we are truly rich.

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Often people turn to the Bible in times of crisis and are disappointed because they are not at home there. They need answers but they don’t know where to go in the Bible to find answers they seek. It’s similar to a soldier frantically looking in his service manual to find out how to unjam his weapon in the middle of a battle.

We are all in the battle of the ages, the angelic conflict, and we better know our service manual, the Bible, forwards and backward if we expect to be good spiritual soldiers.

When our country was founded, the pulpits thundered out the whole council of God and those who knew their Bibles were commonplace. Those who did not know their Bible were scorned and embarrassed. Today, most pulpits cowardly whimper out politically correct platitudes and those who know the Bible are admired because they are unique.

We, as a nation, have become a biblically illiterate people, and therefore, we have an immoral society that can be compared to a cesspool. The Bible is not allowed to be cited in our courts nor is it even considered when our government leaders make laws.

Example: Recently, passing a minimum wage law has been on the news. The media has given the pros and cons for a minimum wage while as you well might expect, the biblical view has not been presented by the media. If any pastors were willing to be quoted on the subject, they are never given the chance to speak up by our biased corrupt media.

**Government leaders ignoring the Bible when making laws:**

The Federal minimum wage is $7.25.

The State minimum wage varies per State.

In Washington State it’s $9.47.

If the State minimum wage is higher than the Federal minimum wage, employers must pay their employees the State minimum wage.

The question is, “Why is our government, both Federal and State, telling people how much they must pay their employees?” Show it to us in the Constitution. It is not there. They therefore do not have the right to do that.

READ: ***Matt. 20:1-16***The employer, in freedom, is making such decisions for his business.

**COLOSSIANS #172 (4-23-15)**

***Matt. 20:16 The last first; the first last.***

1. Rewards depend upon the sovereign grace of God.

2. No one apart from God’s grace can earn them.

3. The first ones into the field are legalistic and complain about their reward.

4. They are critical of grace and complain about God’s generosity to others.

5. The grace of God should not produce an envious attitude.

6. While many are saved by grace, few continue to live by grace, therefore few are rewarded on the

 principle of grace.

***Colossians 3:16 Let the word*** [LOGOS] ***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.***

***With all wisdom,*** SOPHIA n. dsf; good judgment in the face of human and specifically, Christian, demands (practical); wisdom*.*

William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 934.

*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary 10th editon:*

1. The quality of being wise.

2. The body of knowledge and experience that develops within a specified society or period.

 COL. 3, pg. 173 Knowledge can be acquired by reading books in school but ***wisdom*** is acquired through learning Bible doctrine. We should never consider ourselves to be wise in our own eyes because our intelligence does not mean we have ***wisdom***.

***Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.***

***Proverbs 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.***

***Isaiah 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!***

***Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.***

Paul told the believers to pray for the wisdom of God for yourself and others, too:

***Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,***

Knowledge is knowing the principles, precepts, and doctrines of the Bible whereas **wisdom** is internalizing them and retaining them so that you are able to readily apply them to your circumstances.

***Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

“Wisdom” is a noun found 49 times in the book of Proverbs in the NKJV of the Bible. Fifteen times in the first five chapters and 227 times in the entire Bible.

***Proverbs 3:13-15 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; 14) For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. 15) She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.***

***Teaching,*** DIDASKO part. pa; to provide instruction in a formal or informal setting; to teach. The most valuable thing you have to share with others is the BD, ***wisdom***, in your soul.

This verse is similar to verse 28 in chapter one:

***Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom. that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.***

This refers to Paul and the other men who had the communicating gifts of apostleship and pastor-teacher, but our verse refers to the Colossian believers themselves. They were to be wise and to teach and admonish one another.

The more spiritually mature believers have the responsibility to teach what they have learned to other less mature believers. Consider what the writer of Hebrews said to believers who had become spiritually stagnant:

***Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.***

This is not to be a license for believers who just want to lord it over others or have a lust to straighten everyone out. This is only for believers who have the word of Christ richly dwelling in them with all ***wisdom***.

**GUIDELINES**

1. Believers cannot, nor should they, try to replace the pastor.

2. They should use great discernment as to when, how, and to whom they teach.

a. Only those who have a need and are seeking help should be considered.

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b. They must be humble and teachable. Anyone who wants to argue or debate with you are not teachable. Don’t waist your time.

c. Ask a lot of questions and read their body language. If they even give a hint that they no longer want to listen, **let them go**! Give them freedom to leave or to change the subject.

d. Give them the freedom to express themselves and don’t tell them they are wrong if they say something contrary to God’s Word. Show them the scripture and let the Bible correct them.

 e. Stay objective and back up what you say with scripture. If you can’t do that, then you’re not yet qualified to teach others.

 f. It is best to talk with them one on one if possible. They may feel uncomfortable or embarrassed if someone else is there.

g. Don’t preach to the choir. Believers who already have considerable doctrine usually don’t appreciate another believer trying to teach them what they already know.

3. Don’t give them more than they can digest and don’t try to give them a drink with a firehose.

4. You should never do all the talking. Keep them engaged with questions: “Do you understand?” “Have you ever heard this before?” “What do you think?” “Do you have any questions?”

5. When people begin to learn they usually cannot make application for themselves so give them examples and ways to apply what you are teaching them.

6. The biggest mistake most people make when trying to witness or teach someone is talking too much. Try to teach while making conversation, asking questions and giving them a chance to respond back rather than preaching a monologue at them.

**COLOSSIANS #173 (4-28-15)**

***And admonishing one another,*** NOUTHETEO to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct; to admonish, warn, or instruct.

Admonishing someone is being personal in an impersonal way. This is a compound word:

NOUS, mind + TITHMI,to place = to place in the mind; this is what the word originally meant and eventually came to mean to instruct someone so as to warn or encourage them.