

TITLE AND NUMBER: 217 Let the word of Christ dwell in you!

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Colossians 3:16 – 17



Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LOOKING FURTHER: Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52; John 7:16-18

What does the Bible passage tell us?

When I was a young girl, I had a cross-shaped bookmark that said, 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.' I kept it in my Bible, and it is still there. It is from verse 16. There are a lot of useful instructions in this passage as Paul writes to encourage the Colossian Church. But, if we just boil it down to that one verse, it would sum up all of it.

It says, 'Let it dwell...' In other words, we have a choice. We can read Christ's words and dismiss them completely. We can read them superficially and just think, 'That's nice,' and move on; or we can allow them to dwell. We can allow the words to sink in, to change our thinking, to change our actions and want them to be 'alive in me.' Not squashed by the busyness of life, or kept just for Sundays, but alive and working and guiding my life and yours.

There are a lot of wonderful verses in the Bible recorded for us to know what Christ's words were. In some Bibles, they are written in red print, so we know it was Him speaking. But, they are meant to be lived. Jesus took all the Laws that God gave and broke them down to two simple phrases:

1. Love the Lord your God with your whole heart.
2. Love everybody else.

They are easy to say but really quite hard to do. That is why Paul was giving them (and us) tips. That is why we need the Holy Spirit to highlight things to us and show us how to behave. So, this week, will you let the Word of Christ dwell in you – not just a little bit, but richly, deeply and fully?

Reflection

- Verse 12 lists a lot of virtues that we can all aim for. It's quite a list. We may feel as though we don't have many of them – but if we ask this week, God will help us to make a start.
- Verse 13 talks about the importance of forgiveness. God may have forgiven us a great deal from our past, and even our present. We can try to do the same for the people around us this week. It makes life calmer and kinder and brings blessing to us!
- Verse 17 says if we are trying to work on these areas, we should do it for the sake of Jesus, and be thankful to God for Jesus, and for His love for us.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

