

## **One Another – Teach and Admonish**

**Text : Col. 3: 12-16, Eph. 5: 15-19 , Ezra 7:10**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. We are among the most fortunate people to have ever walked the earth.**

1. We live in the most prosperous country in the history of the world.
  - a. Our expectations exceed the dreams of the majority on earth.
  - b. We define wealth as poverty. ( *Live inside, have food, TV, phone, cars, etc.* )
  - c. We should be grateful above all nations.
2. Our greatest blessing is free access to the word of God.
  - a. Bibles are cheap and extremely plentiful.
  - b. The bible has repeatedly been translated into our language. ( *Many versions* )

#### **B. We are fortunate to have the bible in a format that is so easily used.**

1. Many complain about the way chapters and verses often interrupt thoughts, but imagine using a bible without them.
  - a. 30 to 50 pages of Matthew ( *depending on page size and font* ) with no divisions.
  - b. Without Chapters and verses how would one refer another to a specific passage ?

**Heb. 4: 4 – For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day:  
“And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”;**

2. The original manuscripts had no chapters, no verses, no punctuation or even spaces.
3. All these things were added by men to make it easier for us.
  - a. Chapters were added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Archbishop Stephen Langton
  - b. Verses were added by Robert Estienne in 1551.
  - c. The first English bible with both chapters and verses was the Geneva Bible in 1560

#### **C. Therefore, translators who go back to the original manuscripts must decide how to punctuate the text of their translation.**

1. They have no guidance from God as to how to form sentences and punctuate them.
  - a. Many modern translators just follow the pattern of previous translators.
  - b. The only indication as to where to place a period or coma is the context.
  - c. Consequently, there is no uniformity of punctuation.
  - d. There are wide areas of agreement, but where there's no uniformity, there's debate

2. Punctuation is important because it affects understanding and interpretation.
    - a. Compare :
 

**NASV Rom. 11: 25** – For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; ( Cf. ... **Eph 4: 28** KJV )
    - b. **ESV Rom. 11: 25** – Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
  3. Among scholars, there is a goodly amount of controversy about the punctuation of our primary text which cannot be resolved by inspiration.
    - a. Compare :
 

**NASV Col. 3: 16** – 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.
    - b. The meaning is radically changed if a semicolon is places after “one another.”
 

**NASV Col. 3: 16** – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another; ( i.e. *teach each other* ) with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ( i.e. *Sing to God* )
    - c. The NIV reflects that alternate punctuation.
 

**Col. 3: 16** – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, **and** as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- D. Considering the total context of the book, either interpretation could be right.**
1. Paul uses the same language referring to his ministry of teaching.
    - a. **Col. 1: 28** – We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
    - b. The wise teaching and admonishing is done man to man without music.
  2. Paul also commanded the Christians in Ephesus to speak or teach with music.
    - a. **Eph. 5: 18-19** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord
    - b. Christians are here commanded to use music as a means of communicating truth.
  3. Some supposed scholars make the argument that Col. 3: 16 could not mean that the music of the church was used to teaching and to admonish, very much the same language is used in Eph. 5. Thus, between Eph. 5 and Col. 1, it seems clear that the proper use of music in the church is as a teaching and exhorting tool, not to entertain

Thus, as we look at our text we will observe the following four points.

1. All Christians are commanded to let the word of God dwell in us.
2. All Christians are commanded to interact wisely with other people.
3. All Christians are commanded to teach and admonish each other.
4. All Christians are commanded to maintain a grateful heart toward God.

## I. All Christians are commanded to let the word of God dwell in us.

### A. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,” Col. 3: 16

1. We all have a house or an apartment in which we live.
  - a. Living is different from visiting.
  - b. We are most comfort in our own dwelling.
  - c. The casual visitor is not given free reign in the house. (*Worker opened ref.*)
2. We are commanded to give the word of God resident status in our hearts.
  - a. The word of God is to be comfortable within us. (*Part of our life.*)
  - b. “Richly dwell” implies much more than a visitor status. (*Full benefit of residency*)
  - c. Open and free access to our heart. *Riches is an abundance, here of knowledge.*

### B. The “word of Christ” does not mean just the words actually spoken by Jesus.

1. “Red letter editions” of the bible imply that the words of Jesus have special weight.
2. **II Tim. 3: 16** – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
3. The “word of Christ” also includes the words of the O.T.
 

**II Pet. 1: 20-21** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
4. We know that anything inspired of one member of the godhead is inspired by all.
  - a. There is but one God who manifests Himself in three personalities.
  - b. Thus, all that is written by inspiration of God is part of the “Word of Christ.”

### C. How do we get the “Word of Christ” to dwell within us ?

1. The best way is to read and to study it.
  - a. **Rev. 1: 3** – **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.**
  - b. Jesus frequently asked, “Have you not read?” **Matt. 19:4, 21:16, 21:42, 22:31**
  - c. In this country there is no excuse for ignorance. *Bibles are cheap and available.*

2. One can listen to the word.
  - a. The word is both read and preached in every assembly. (*All lessons published*)
  - b. There are many ways to listen to the word ... CD, Mp3, I-phone, Internet, etc.
  - c. Both Moses (**Exod. 24**) and Joshua read God's word to the people.  
**Josh. 8: 35** – **There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them. ( cf. Neh. 8 )**
3. The word begins to dwell in us as we meditate on it. (*We converse with it over time.*)
  - a. **Psa. 1: 2** – (*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel ...*) **But his delight is in the, law of the Lord And in His law he meditates day and night.**
  - b. **Psa. 119: 97-99** **O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. <sup>98</sup> Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. <sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.**
  - c. We read the word in the morning and meditate on it all day.  
*\* Like the animals, we quickly consume what can and then chew on it at our leisure.*

## II. The longer the word of Christ indwells us, the more wisdom it will produce.

- A. Remember what we just read in **Psa. 119: 98**. (“make me wiser than my enemies,”)
  - B. The bible is not hard to understand if we apply ourselves to it.
    1. We spend years learning the skills needed for this temporary life on earth.
    2. If you spent half as much time learning God's word, you would be skilled with it.
      - a. How many math courses have you had in your life ?  
*Do others recognize you as a mathematician ?*
      - b. From 1<sup>st</sup> grade, how many communication courses have you completed ?  
*Do others recognize you as skilled communicator ? Do they ask you about ...*
    3. If you spend just 30 minutes a day really studying God's word, people will begin recognizing you as a person with spiritual wisdom.
    4. The bible is written at an elementary level so it will be easy to understand.
      - a. Most of the N.T. is written at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. (*Are you smarter than a 6<sup>th</sup> grader?*)
      - b. Johns writings are at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. (*Are you smarter than a 3<sup>th</sup> grader ?*)
      - c. The most advanced book is Hebrews and it's only at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level.
      - d. Some few passages are difficult (**II Pet. 3: 14-16**) but most are not.

**C. Wisdom grows from a deep and fertile knowledge.**

1. It is defined as : *knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.*
2. It cannot be bestowed by one person upon another.
  - a. It was not one of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit.
  - b. One can become intellectually brilliant without developing wisdom.
3. Spiritual wisdom only grows in the right kind of heart. ( *Takes time and effort* )

**D. God will assist men of faith to develop spiritual wisdom.**

1. Solomon asked for a wise heart to rule well and God gave it to him. **I Kings 3: 6-14**
2. Christians are promised wisdom if they will ask for it in true faith. **James 1: 5-8**

**III. Having the word dwelling within one equips him to teach with wisdom.****A. God does not make educational prerequisites before teaching His word.**

1. He called uneducated fishermen to be His Apostles. **Matt. 4: 18-22 -cf- Acts 4: 13**
2. He only requires that one have HIS word dwelling within him.

**B. He wants for us to have the same attitude as those who loved Him in times past.**

1. Jeremiah was so discouraged he just wanted at “**wayfarers’ lodging**” but then .. **9:2 Jer. 20: 9** – **But if I say, “I will not remember Him or speak anymore in His name,” then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot endure it.**
2. Ezra the scribe was already “skilled in the word of God”, but he studied and taught. **Ezra 7: 10** – **For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.**
3. *When one becomes filled with the word of God, he’s like a wet sponge; he can’t help drippin all over everyone with whom he comes in contact.*

**C. God requires that we learn His word and share what we learn with others.**

1. Jesus commanded that we teach all of His commandments. **Matt. 28: 19-20** **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**
2. In our text, the Apostle commands us to teach and to admonish one another.
  - a. Teach : *to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, impart positive truth*

- b. Admonish : *to warn, to exhort, to put in mind, to discipline, to train by act*
- c. The difference between 'admonish' and 'teach' seems to be that, whereas the former has mainly in view the things that are wrong and call for warning, the latter has to do chiefly with the impartation of positive truth, .. ( W.E. Vine )

**D. Teaching isn't just for elders, preachers and those who hold the office, it's for all**

1. In N.T. church, all were commanded and all did it. ( **Matt. 28: 18- 20 -cf- Acts 8: 1-4** )
2. “*Faithful*” brethren are to be able to teach others who will teach ... **II Tim. 2: 2**
3. It a requirement for church leadership. ... **I Tim. 3: 2**
4. Older women must teach “*what is good.*” ... **Titus 2: 3**
5. Of course, preachers must teach sound doctrine. ... **I Tim. 4: 11, 6: 2, etc.**
6. God expects all members to grow to the point they can teach others.
  - a. **I Pet. 3: 15** – ... *always being ready to make a defense to everyone* ...
  - b. **Heb. 5: 12** – *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. This is another one of those “one another” responsibilities.**

1. Each Christians helps to teach every other Christian how to love and serve God.  
**Heb. 10: 23-25** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to motivate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*
2. We get together each week to have an opportunity to motivate each other.
3. Love makes this duty a joy.
4. Who have you admonished this week ? What have you taught ? ( *Not just a song* )

**B. Singing is just one of the ways we teach and admonish, but it is one we all do.**

**C. One of the greatest reasons the church is largely ineffective in reaching the world is because we are not so full of the word that it spills over on those around us.**

**INVITATION :**

**We all teach and admonish each other because we want to go to Heaven. Do You ?**

**Lesson Texts :****Colossians 3: 12-16**

**12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

**14** Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**16** 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.

**Ephesians 5: 15-21**

**15** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

**Ezra 7: 8-10**

**8** He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. **9** For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God was upon him. **10** For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

**Colossians 3: 15-17** ( *as it appears in original manuscripts* )

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS TO WHICH INDEED YOU WERE CALLED IN ONE BODY AND BE THANKFUL 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 WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR DEED DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS GIVING THANKS THROUGH HIM TO GOD THE FATHER.

ὁ λόγος τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐνοικεῖ τῶν ἐν ὑμῖν πλουσίως ἐν πάσῃ ὀφείδι διδάσκοντες καὶ νοθετοῦντες ἑαυτοὺς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς ἐν χάριτι ᾄδοντες ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν τῷ θεῷ · **Vs. 16**