

## Colossians 3:15-17

### Now here is what you do

People today are looking everywhere possible for answer on how to make themselves better. Many People go to great lengths trying to find the remedy for something that they may feel is lacking or isnt perfect in their lives.

I did a recent search on self help books. I found on amazon that there are 310,318 books under the search of self help. The titles range from personal transformation, happiness, parenting, spirtitual self help and self esteem. So you can see that people are searching for answers for how to live their lives. They are searching for the how to to better themselves.

As we come to todays study in Colossians we are going to see the new man really getting things together in his or her life.

If you have ever had the chance to read Colossians you may note that in the first 2 chapters of Colossians Paul really layed a biblical foundation for the believer. And now in all of chapter 3 you can see how Paul is really exhorting the believer to live up to his or her calling upon their life.

You see it is very important to have a solid foundation. It is important to know what you believe and why you believe it before you can ever begin to grow or build upon the things in your life.

So many people today will say. I need to get my life right. Which is good that people wanna change for the better. But many will say I need to get my life right before I come to church. Yet that is the complete opposite of what needs to happen. You need to a come to a place to where God can speak to you and from there your life will begin to become right. You see it is really hard to do the right thing if you do not have any reason or idea why you need to change. It is extremely hard to change for something if you dont believe in it.

And as Paul has penned this letter to the Colossians he did just that. He made sure that they were in a right place with God before he began to exhort them to make changes in their lives.

Once you come to Christ the scales have been removed from your eyes and now you can see. Now you know why change is needed.

So with the people in Colosse. They have battled with false religious teachings and many different false theologies. And now they have been set on the solid rock of Christ.

Paul said in Colossians 3:1

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

The new man is in a great place to start building upon the foundation that has been laid. And Paul is really beginning to whip the new man into shape.

In verses 5-11 it is telling you to kill the members that are here on earth. It is saying kill the things that

are here on the earth that is part of the sinful nature of man. You are to kill it. Get rid of it. The things that cause you to stumble are the very things that the new man is to have nothing to do with.

And now that you have cut away all the negative bad sinful stuff in your life you are called to put on the new man. And you can see that in verse 12-14 of chapter 3.

We spoke of this the last youth sunday which was back in march. You are clothe yourself with the characteristics of Christ himself. So if you can remember any of that then that is really awesome.

Now for this mornings study we are going to talk about the priorities of the new man. Or the things that the new man ought to do.

So lets read it together.

### **Col 3:15-17**

**15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

You read that and start to think man this new man is really changed for the better. They have indentified themselves with Christ. They have set there minds on the things above. They cut away the members that cause them to sin. They have put on the things of Christ and have really begun to show the characteristics of Christ.

And now Paul is writing these verses to tell us of a few things that we should do. He is saying you wanna get your life in line do this. You wanna see great things happen in your life do this. You are having issues in your life do this. You see it is very practical application that we must read take to heart and apply it to our lives.

We are going to go through 3 priorities of the new man as seen in the scripts this morning.

One - let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. verse 15

Two - let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. verse 16

Three - let the name of Christ be the issue in everything you do. verse 17

Beginning of verse says "**And let the peace of God rule in your hearts**"

I read that and say well that sounds great but what does it mean? What is this peace that you speak of?

Well, the Greek word for "peace" means "an agreement or a pact or a treaty or a bond" whereas the Hebrew concept of "peace" means "an attitude of peace or rest or security."

In my thinking you cant have one without the other.

Before you came to Christ you were at war with Christ. You had drawn your line in the sand you were on one side and He was on the other and you were against Christ.

*Matt 12:30*

*30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*

That is some very straight to the point no questions asked type of a verse there.

Think about it. Before you had come to Christ you tried and tried to battle the emptiness of life with many different things trying to find an escape from the constant war that was in your thoughts and actions. You tried so many things and yet so many things failed you. You weren't exactly fighting something physically or emotionally. **You were fighting Christ.** You were fighting a spiritual battle if you will. You were fighting your creator. You were trying to push Him as far away from you as you could but you just could not get away.

If you have your bibles lets turn in them right quick to take a look at another scripture that points to this peace.

*Eph 2:12-18*

*12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.***

I know that when I was appart from Christ that very verse fit me to the tee. I was without hope and really didnt have much to live for. My life had a massive hole in it and I was struggling to try and fill it.

*13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

So you see the gospel itself is a peace treaty. When you came to Jesus Christ, you made an agreement with Christ. You signed a truce. Prior to coming to Christ, you and God were at war. You were on one side and God was on the other side and you were going at it. But there came a point in your life to where you said. I would like to come to your side Jesus. I would like the war to be over. I am done with the fighting. I want to surrender myself to you. I want my life to be yours. I am waving my white flag in surrender and my life is now given back to you.

That is the very first step that the process new man is to take.

Now the Hebrew concept of "peace" means "an attitude of peace or rest or security.

Once you became a Christian you found rest did you not? I know that when I gave my heart to Christ 9 years ago there was a burden lifted off my shoulders and I could just take that deep breath knowing that things are going to be alright.

The battle is over I am at peace with God and I found peace through Christ. Sure I face many trials and tribulations daily. But none of them phase me when I find my rest and security in the peace of Christ. So now you have this peace of Christ. What is it that you do with it?

Did you see it there in verse 15 it says let it rule your heart.

Let me first point out before we go any further with this verse. The second word of verse 15. It says let. It is an action required on your part. The peace that you receive and the peace that can rule your life is already there. Christ has already given it to you. All you have to do is **let it** rule your heart let it be your peace.

So many times we can get so overwhelmed with situations or task at hand. We can get so discouraged and down on ourselves. but if we just let the peace of God rule our hearts then we have no worry. We have no anxiety. We have no discouragement. We have peace. Let the peace rule.

Now this word rule. In the greek it means to be a umpire to decide, determine to direct, control, rule:

The word translated "rule" is an athletic term. It means "to preside at the games and distribute the prizes." Paul used a variation of this word in his Letter to the Colossians: "Let no one declare you unworthy of a prize" (literal translation, Col 2:18). In the Greek games, there were judges (we would call them umpires) who rejected the contestants who were not qualified, and who disqualified those who broke the rules.

When we compete in sports today there is always some shape or form of a judge or umpire. They are the ones who will make the necessary calls to keep the game safe and even.

Now I have been a part of many sports that involved a referee. I have seen some really bad calls and been a victim of some really bad calls. I have even watched some games on tv and I know that I am not the only one who will yell at the ref on the tv about how bad that call was.

Question what happens if you start yelling at a ref for a bad call? Many times it will result in another foul or worse an ejection from the game. I find it funny when I may catch some sports highlights and a baseball coach will come out from the dugout and he seems all relaxed until he gets up to the umpire and what's the first thing he does. He grabs his hat he throws it on the ground and starts letting the umpire have all that he has to say. All the while the umpire will just stand there all quiet like and until he has had enough and then just tosses the coach from the game.

And same with God if we look to God and say hey man that is the wrong call I totally disagree with that one. Then we continue to go our own way and do the things that God has told us were wrong. We often time will find our lives sitting on the bench in a very bad position for our lives. When we take matters into our own hands instead of letting His peace rule in your hearts.

That's why we read in the scripture tonight that you let the God of peace rule in your hearts. Not you rule

your heart. Let Him rule. We have already seen and know what happens to us if we take control and rule our own lives. We turn back to the old sinful man.

The peace of God is the "Umpire" in our believing hearts and our churches. When we obey the will of God, we have His peace within

but when we step out of His will even if it happens on accident. we lose His peace.

Something else we can take note of as well. If we have peace in our hearts, we will be at peace with others in the church. We are called to one body. And our relationship in that body must be one of harmony and peace. If we are out of the will of God, we are certain to bring discord and disharmony to the church.

You see when a Christian loses the peace of God, he begins to go off in directions that are out of the will of God. He turns to the things of the world and the flesh to compensate for his lack of peace within. He tries to escape, but he cannot escape himself! It is only when he confesses his sin, claims God's forgiveness, and does God's will that he experiences God's peace within.

So look to yourself this morning are you struggling with certain things. Do you not have that peace in your lives? Then ask yourselves are fighting with the ref or umpire? Or are you listen to the rule of God?

And to finish verse 15 it says **and be thankful.**

Do you know how to keep your heart peaceful? Be thankful. Just keep thanking the Lord for everything. It's just amazing how peaceful you will be. Be thankful. Lord, you're the umpire. You call them. Fine, Lord. It's good if that's what you want. Thank you.

But when you are constantly arguing with the umpire and trying to do things your way. You be dissatisfied with your life and the things around you.

One pastor writes "when there is peace in the heart there is praise on the lips" You will be thankful.

I just love the way that sounds. And it brings us into the next verse.

**16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

You see that important word again at the start of verse 16 Let. Let the word of Christ dwell.

You see here the new man walks in the word of God and in worship with other believers.

The word "dwell" means "to be at home." Let the word of Christ be at home in you. Home is comfortable, right? Home is where you want to be right? I mean everyone loves to go on an extended vacation but there comes a point to where everyone will say I just wanna go home.

So to with the word of God it is to dwell in you. It is to be at home in you. It is as if someone will come up to you and say you know who lives in his heart and mind or in her heart and mind. The word of God lives there. That person right there is filled with the word of God. Not only does it live there but it is

comfortable there. The word has made home there and is not leaving there.

This verse gives the idea that if someone was to cut you open you would just bleed bible verses. The word is so deep in you that it just flows in your body.

The Word will transform our lives if we will allow it to "dwell" in us richly. If we have experienced the peace of Christ, then the Word of Christ will feel at home in our hearts. We will then soon discover how rich the Word is with spiritual treasures and that it gives value to our lives.

But Here is a question? If we were to take a serious poll as to how many people actually read their bibles apart from a Sunday church service can we all say that the word of God lives in us?

I encourage the youth every Tuesday to dig in to their bibles daily. And I will just encourage you guys as well. To dig in. Let the word be at home in your lives.

Many saved people cannot honestly say that God's Word dwells in their hearts richly because they do not take time to read, study, and memorize it. Getting into the word daily is a must. It is our daily bread of life. We don't go without food on a day to day basis by choice then why would we go without feeding the spiritual man.

There is a danger today, as there was in Paul's day, that churches minimize the Word of God. There seems to be a lack of simple Bible teaching in churches. There is far more interest shown in movies, concerts, and various entertainments than in God's Word.

I was speaking to a brother about a youth group that he had just begun to lead. And he was asking questions about how we do things and how a typical youth study goes. He was asking what we were teaching. So I asked him what he was thinking about going through first. And he let me know that we weren't specifically preaching out of the Bible but yet he was teaching from a secular song he heard on the radio. A song that was very popular in the schools and among teens. Now I don't want that to seem as talking bad about his study. But I do want to point out that we must be all about the Word of God. We don't teach what someone wrote in a book we read or a song we heard. We teach the bible. We want everything that comes out of our mouths to be based upon the word of God.

You can read in the latter part of verse 16 That once we have the word of Christ in us. we are to be **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing**

You see as we are filled with the word of God we are to share the word of God with everyone around us. When we come to church we are to be all about sharing the word of God. When we come together we are to be all about ministering to one another by the things that God has shown us in His word. Church isn't just some social get together club. When we step into this church building or wherever two believers get together we are to be teaching one another. It is what we are called to do. All of us are called to teach one another.

Did you notice that it didn't say that the pastor only may teach the word of God. Sure the pastors have been given a special gift. But it's not limited to just them.

No everyone who is a believer is able and capable to teach the word of God. And in fact as it is written

here in this verse we are **told** to teach and admonish one another. Don't just leave all the work to the pastor.

And here is something else, you can teach the pastor as well. Some may ask well how does the pastor learn so much. He learns from of course his private time in the word and he can will learn from each and every one of you.

Pastors can learn as much from you as you may from him. I will tell you working with some of the kids in youth and some of the kids in childrens ministry. They totally blow me away with how much knowledge they have of God's word. I was just in awe of how much they know and understood. There has been a few times to where I was just ready to hand the attention of the group directly over to them and let them teach the group and myself as well.

Now further in that verse we can see there is according to Paul a definite relationship between our knowledge of the Bible and our expression of worship in song. One way we teach and encourage ourselves and others is through the singing of the Word of God. Psalm of course is a book of songs that we can teach each other through singing them

If you were to hear the song amazing grace for the very first time. You would think to yourself what does that even mean.

You know amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

We would all think what is amazing grace, what are we being saved from, and why did you just call me a wretch. But if you know what the bible says. And you have a relationship with Christ that song really means something to you. You understand it and you will sing it with conviction and from the heart.

You see our knowledge of the words of Christ is what puts the song in our hearts.

When the word of Christ dwells in you, you're going to be able to teach people to minister to people and secondly, you're going to be a happy person going around singing it. You know, I like to be happy, and I think that Christians ought to be the happiest people in the world. In fact, we're the only ones who have anything to sing about.

Our singing must be from our hearts and not just our lips. If the Word of God is not in our hearts, we cannot sing from our hearts. This shows how important it is to know the Word of God, for it enriches our public and private worship of God and encourages those around us.

When you're singing, to whom are you singing? To the Lord. It isn't the tune that He's concerned about. It's what's coming out of your heart. The music, the worship we sing is where you have the opportunity to come before God.

Worship isn't just the sound that come out of your mouth, it's the love that comes out of your heart. Jesus said,

*(John 4:24 NKJV) "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

To worship in "spirit" means that it comes from inside you, from your heart, from your spirit. That's

true worship.

I used to be that person who never sang out loud in church. People around me may wish i was still like that. But that doesnt really matter. And my wife of course always said it is so fun to just sing to let your heart pour out. She being a worship leader kinda shows that point as well.

Man I will tell you. You are missing out if you hold back during worship. I love the corporate worship time. I love feeling the Spirit just move in this place. If you are holding back then you totally forget what worship is about. Its about you singing to Jesus. You are not singing to sing for everyone around you. You are joining with everyone around you to sing to God.

Here is a worship song that teaches us something. I love that song I am coming back to the heart of worship. By Matt Redman Here is the chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You,  
It's all about You, Jesus

You see that song teaches us that the heart of worship is Jesus. And if we all know what Jesus did for us then each and everyone of us will be singing so that our hearts and voices just cry out to heaven.

I read some article on Matt Redman and why he wrote that song.

*Since it began, Soul Survivor has always given plenty of time over to worshipping through music. Over the years, people have poured out their hearts to God through it, and there have been plenty of examples of great things happening as a result. However, there was a season when we realized that something was not right with our worship.*

*In our hearts, we were giving the worship team grades on a scale from one to ten: And saying things like - 'Not that song again,' 'I can't hear the bass,' 'I like the way she sings better.' We had made the band the performers of worship and ourselves the audience.*

*We had forgotten that we are ALL the performers of worship and that God is the audience. We had forgotten that sacrifice is central to biblical worship. We are called to offer our bodies as living sacrifices - this is OUR spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1). We are called to offer our sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15).*

*So There came a time when we sat around in circles and said that if no one brought a sacrifice of praise, we would spend the meeting in silence. At the beginning we virtually did! It was a very painful process. We were learning again not to rely on the music.*

*After a while, we began to have some very sweet times of worship. We all began to bring our prayers, our readings, our prophecies, our thanksgiving, our praises and our songs. Someone would start a song a cappella and we would all join in. Then someone else would take it on to another song. The excitement came back. We were not just having Church; we were once again meeting with God. With all the comforts stripped away, we worshiped from the heart.*

And to finish up todays study.

**17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**



All that we say and do should be associated with the name of Jesus Christ. By our words and our actions, it should all bring glory to His name. If we allow anything into our lives that cannot be associated with the name of Jesus, then we are sinning. We must do and say everything on the authority of His name and for the honor of His name. We do everything as if He is standing right next to us as He truly is.

Bearing the name of Jesus is a great privilege, Being called a Christian is an awesome title. but it is also a tremendous responsibility.

If I was to say to you that I was standing here before you in the name of the President of the United States, I would be called an ambassador.

When the Secretary of State travels to a foreign country and meets with its leaders, they are supposed to represent their boss, the President.

Whether I realize it or not, I represent Jesus Christ to everyone around me.

Whatever you do, do all consistent with the person of Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God. Do you know what that means? We're right back to the same thing. When you put on the new man, who are you really putting on? Jesus Christ.

[Romans 13:14](#). Listen to it. Here it is, the sum up of everything. "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Isn't that great? Put Him on. Its another command to action. Put on the Lord Christ.

Since we are united with Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have all the resources we need for holy living. But we must be spiritually motivated. Because we have experienced the grace of Christ, we want to live for Him. Because we have enjoyed the peace of Christ, we want to obey Him. We have been enriched by the Word of Christ, and ennobled by the name of Christ; therefore, we want to honor and glorify Him.

Can we desire any higher motivation?