

Three Things We Need Colossians 3:15-17

INTRO: In each of the three verses that we are studying, we find three distinct and wonderful themes that join together to enrich the lives of believers:

1. Vs 15, The peace of God– the peace of God is to rule or dominate the hearts of believers.
2. Vs 16, The Word of Christ– the Word of Christ is to richly dwell in Christian's hearts.
3. Vs 17, The Name of Christ– the name of Christ is our authority. The name of Christ is our identification. All that we do is to honor the name of Christ.

We need the peace of God as assurance of acceptance, the Word of Christ as a compass, and the name of Christ as our passport.

I. VS 15, THE PEACE OF GOD

- A. "Peace" is the Greek word *eirene*. This peace is the condition of security, rest, and contentment in the hearts of those who believe, of those who know their Redeemer lives. "I know that my redeemer liveth...." (Job 19:25).
 1. This peace is the conviction that the sins of the past, present, and future are forgiven. This peace is the peace of the way– salvation in Christ.
 - a. The war between the believer and God is over. The treaty was paid in blood, the blood of Jesus, God's Son (Eph 1:7; I Jn 1:7).
 - b. Believers are at peace with God (Rm 5:1).
 2. For believers, the present is being overruled for good (Rm 8:28). That is peace.
 3. This peace is the peace that Christ brings to believers (Jn 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you...."). (Note John 16:33; Eph 2:14, "For he is our peace.....").
 4. Believers have security, rest, and peace (Phil 4:7).
 - a. Romans 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- b. II Tim. 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
- B. “Rule” is the Greek word *brabeuo*. It is used only here in the New Testament.
 - 1. This word describes the activity of an umpire, one who settles things that are in dispute.
 - 2. We are to let the peace of God be the decider, the compass of all thing sin our heart.
 - a. When we obey the leading of the Spirit, when we are in the will of God, we will have peace within.
 - b. An infraction against God’s rules calls for the penalty of loss of peace.
 - c. To make right decisions, we need the leadership of the Spirit, the filling of the Spirit, the unction of the Spirit, and the conviction of the Spirit. We need an umpire to settle the battle between the warring factions in our soul.
 - 1- If what we are struggling with is sin, we need to forsake the sin, for sin offends and grieves the Holy Spirit. Sin shatters our sense of direction and security.
 - 2- God the Holy Spirit will teach you right from wrong. He will convict you when you go wrong and bring peace when you do right (Jn 14:26).
- C. “Called in one body.”
 - 1. When we have peace in our hearts, we will have peace with others in the church.
 - 2. We are called to one body– the church, *the ekklesia*, the local body.
 - a. When we are out of the will of God, it is inevitable that we will bring discord and disharmony to the church to which we belong.
 - b. Peace is relational. When individuals have peace in their hearts, then there will be peace in the body.
- D. “Be ye thankful.”
 - 1. When you are out of the will of God, you lose your peace and praise just like David did (Psa 51:10-12).

2. There is no sincere song in the heart of the sinning Christian; but when sins are confessed, the songs of thanksgiving return.
3. Believers who are in fellowship with Christ will be thankful for God's blessings (Eph 5:20; I Thes 5:18).

II. VS 16, THE WORD OF CHRIST

A. This means the Word of God, the Bible!

1. The Bible will transform your life if you will engraft it into your heart, if you will allow it to "dwell" in you richly.
 - a. "Dwell" means "to feel at home, to live in." The truths of the Bible are to permeate our lives. They are to govern every thought, word, deed, passion, and drive.
 - b. The above will happen if the believer will:
 - 1- Heed the Word— "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Mt 13:9).
 - 2- Handle it rightly— "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' (II Tim 2:15).
 - 3- Hide the Word in our hearts— Psa 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
 - 4- Hold forth "the word of life" (Phil 2:16) to others.
2. The Bible is the book we need to know what is right, to know what is wrong, to know how to get right and stay right (II Tim 3:16).
3. Not only is the Bible to affect the individual, it is to affect the church. We are not to minimize the Word of God. Videos and musicals are not to take the place of the Word of God.

B. "Wisdom"— seeing life from God's perspective. The Word of God gives God's view of how things are to be. When the Word of God is richly dwelling in us, we see God's way of doing things. We do not need a famine of the Word.

C. "Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.' Note in Eph 5:18-19, the emphasis is on being filled with the Spirit; in Colossians, the emphasis is on being filled with the Word.

1. Psalms- songs from the scripture— primarily the Old

- Testament. We learn the word as we sing.
2. Hymns– songs of praise and adoration to God– “To God Be the Glory.” Hymns are addressed to God.
 3. Spiritual songs– songs of testimony– “Amazing Grace.” Spiritual songs are addressed to God.
 4. “Singing with grace in your hearts.” This is singing because we have God’s grace in our hearts. It takes grace to sing when we are in a storm of life (Acts 16:22-25). “Our singing must not be a display of fleshly talent; it must be a demonstration of the grace of God in our hearts” (Wiersbe 119).
 5. Three books that every Christian needs: God’s book, the Bible; the pocketbook; and the hymn book.

III. VS 17, THE NAME OF CHRIST

- A. Here is a verse that can really help you and me. It is a good verse to live by: “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
1. We are to bind Satan in the name of Jesus (Mk 3:27).
 2. Notice that it says: “whatsoever ye do,” or whatever you do. We are to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. We are to act as He would act and do what He wants. Can we say that in the name of Christ? Can we do that asking for help in His name?
 3. I Cor 10:31: “Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to glory of God.”
- B. “Giving thanks....” We are to do right and enjoy doing it. Our living for the Lord is not to be done in reluctance or despair, but with “giving thanks.....”

CONCLUSION: Remember, the peace of God is to dominate, rule our hearts (vs 15). The Word of God is to dwell in us (Vs 16), and the name of Christ is to guide our actions.

Oct. 11, 2009

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