

(Colossians 3:16-23, NIV84)

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. 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. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Have we been losing perspective? So much in the media is about "us versus them." Political parties pontificating on their pious platforms, campaigning politicians, political analysts giving their "profound insights," it so dominates the news and, if we let it, it can dominate our minds too. It can become all-consuming like a flame put to dry grass.

Let's take the advice of the apostle Paul: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." When we make a point of daily drinking into our souls the word of Christ, we won't be like dry grass ready to be set ablaze. Instead we'll be lush and well-fed, balanced and enlightened, equipped and motivated to live the lives of love that our Savior calls us to. We will see everything with the fresh perspective that our world and everyone in it needs nothing greater than to know Jesus and the salvation He has won. Being well-watered in the word of Christ, let your Christian light shine to everyone around you.

In Christ's love with you,  
Pastor Golm

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August 25

God's Word-to Christian Families

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16

The above words are significant in themselves. But they take on added significance when we remember that they form the introduction to Paul's detailed instruction to Christian families. The Scripture regards "the word of Christ" as the most important link in the Christian family circle.

In the hectic hubbub of our modern world, how easy it is to forget this. In a day of rampant secularism, when even the name of Christ is considered almost exclusively as part of a theological vocabulary, a word irrelevant to daily life, how difficult it is for some of us to let his Word dwell among us richly! A thousand other words, yes! The name of Christ-how awkward in the context of daily family living!

Our Lord tells us that it ought not so to be. Christian families should live on a rich diet of his Word--in daily prayers, daily devotions, the frequent use of "hymns and spiritual songs", and regular attendance at church. Nor should these become a mere ritual. They should find expression in a common bond of love and Christian fellowship.

How is it with us? Does the Word of Christ dwell among us richly or, for the most part, does it dwell among us poorly-perhaps in a long neglected catechism or in a dust-covered Bible in our bookshelf? Does Christ enter frequently into our family conversation? Does a day go by without his name on our lips? Do we lift our hearts to him in "hymns and spiritual songs"-not only in formal worship but also at the ironing board and kitchen sink-even if only in worshipful humming? May each of us learn more and more to pray:

Jesus, Thy words alone impart Eternal life; on these I live;  
Here sweeter comforts cheer my heart Than all the powers of nature give.

O Lord Jesus Christ, let the good news of Your Gospel dwell among us richly in our hearts and in our homes. Amen.