

## Consecrate Yourselves Unto God 5

Colossians 3:12-17 <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### ❖ Recap

#### ➤ There Were so many important things from last week

- **1) We made the point that Paul is telling us to put some things on**
  - We were reminded that He had also told us to get rid of some things...
  - The point was this: You can not put these things on... unless you are:
    - ◆ Treasuring Christ...
  - We pointed to verse 16 where Paul says, **let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly**
  - There will be no compassionate hearts, or humility, or love, or forgiveness...
  - Unless that is who we are... who we have become...
  - Because we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus
- **2) We also made the point that He is writing to those he believes to be Followers of Jesus**
  - **He says...**
    - ◆ God is going to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach
  - **This is a reminder that...** Jesus did not just come to save us, but also to change us...
    - ◆ We are in a process...
    - ◆ And if you do not find yourself in that process, you need to check your spiritual pulse
  - This is what Paul is getting at in ch 1.23... after he says He plans to present them as Holy
    - ◆ Paul reminds them.... If indeed you continue in the faith...
    - ◆ So there is that very real warning of finding yourself not in the faith...
    - ◆ Part of the way God sanctifies His children is through the work of His Word...
- **3) We had some Garments to put on...**
  - **1) Put on godliness...**
    - ◆ <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
    - ◆ Remember that not everyone is as awesome as you are...
    - ◆ The Failsafe is forgiveness...
  - **2) Put on Love**
    - ◆ The belt that holds it all together

### ❖ Outline: The Next Four Garments You Must Put On

- **Remember... Paul has said that we must put these things on...**
  - And the word comes with the idea of putting on a garment...
  - And even more than that... it is being enveloped in these qualities...
- **I would like to add another aspect of what it means to put these things on...**
  - If you remember back a few verses, Paul reminds us
  - We have put off the old self with its practices and put on the new self...

- These qualities are not just something we put on for a bit
- Or get wrapped up in for a time...
- They become who we are...
- They are qualities that have become a part of who we are as a person
- **This only happens... if first... you have been raised with Christ**
  - And second... you continue in the faith...
  - And third... you are killing your sin
  - And fourth ... you are seeking things above, and setting your mind on these things
  - And your letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly...
  - So... Finally... you are practicing these qualities...
- ❖ **Four very proactive qualities...**
  - **1) Let God's Peace Rule in Your Hearts**
  - **2) Be thankful**
  - **3) Let Christ's Word Dwell in you Richly!**
  - **4) Do Everything in the Name of Jesus**
- ❖ **4) Let God's Peace Rule in Your Hearts**
  - **<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.**
  - **Before We get into what He means here...**
    - **Remember... if you do not start with Treasuring Jesus... having a relationship with Him...**
      - **You will not attain Peace...**
    - **It is like: When you walked through a group of people that want to do you harm**
      - I remember this in high school... you could apply it to an angry mob
      - When my buddies who would stand with me...
      - I was unafraid walking through that crowd...
      - When I was by myself... I was not sure what was going to happen...
      - because it was just me... and there were a bunch of them
      - Maybe we think of people going through an angry mob...
      - they feel better when the police are there escorting them
    - **You must nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ...**
  - **What does it mean to have Peace?**
    - We define Peace as: freedom from disturbance
    - **This particular greek word is: *eirene***
      - **Meaning:** the absence of mental stress or anxiety... freedom from worry...
      - When you are at peace... you have been set free from worry...
      - This must mean that you were previously held captive by worry or anxiety
      - You were its prisoner and it had you bound in chains...
      - But, when peace comes in... it sets you free from your captivity to worry...
    - **Illustrated:**
      - It is literally just like being kidnapped
      - And they lock you up in some room
      - And you are bound in shackles for years
      - But... Someone comes for us...
        - ◆ And He brokers a treaty with your captors to allow you to go free...
        - ◆ And you are released from your captivity
    - **Peace is like this:**
      - It sets us free from worrying about tomorrow, or the next hour or the next second...
  - **So, that is what Peace is... now... what is it that Paul is telling us to do with it?**
    - He wants us to let it rule in our hearts...
    - **Rule?** – This means that peace is to have control...

- It is to be the umpire or voice of authority in our hearts...
- Like a judge....
- **In our hearts**
  - Our hearts are the inner most part of who we are...
  - Our hearts are the hotbed for how we feel about all sorts of things...
  - It is within our inner most being that we find ourselves fearful or happy, or excited...
- **What does this look like?**
  - **I do believe Paul writes this to them because Christianity is such a new thing**
    - And many of them found a lot of conflict because of their new belief
    - This was a scary thing...
    - But... We could apply this to anything that causes a lack of peace...
  - **Let's say for example you are worried about your future...**
    - Where you will find the money to pay the bills
    - Or where your next meal is coming from
    - Or maybe you are not so sure about your job... is it going to last... or when will I get one...
  - **These are all areas for concern or worry... they cause stress and anxiety...**
    - When the peace of Christ rules...
    - You cease to worry about those things... You are set free from the anxiety...
- **Ok... sounds good... I know what peace is... I actually have a better working definition for peace**
  - Now what... Now what do I do with it?
  - **Let it rule:**
    - Paul gives us an imperative here.... Just meaning... it is a command...
  - **It Must have control of our hearts...**
    - Our hearts cause us to feel this way or that way...
    - And our feelings are based off of what we know...
    - If I know my wife loves me, in my heart... this love rules my knowledge of our relationship
      - ◆ But this knowledge comes from years of her proving this to me...
  - **If we want peace to rule in our hearts....**
    - Our hearts must be governed by God's perfect Word and all its promises
    - His Word creates the character of peace in us...
    - Because... His Word points to the character of our Savior...
- **The Peace of Christ:**
  - **Let's look once more at what Paul is intending here when He says peace of Christ...**
    - I mentioned the idea that the readers of this letter were probably facing fears
    - Over the new found faith...
  - **But... it is likely that the main way in which Paul is putting this phrase is in regards to:**
    - The kind of peace that Jesus brings to the soul that is at war with Him
    - Men have been rebellious against God, and Jesus came to make peace b/w the two parties
  - **We were at War with God**
    - **Romans 5:8 while we were still sinners**
    - **Romans 5:10 while we were enemies**
  - **When Jesus came, He was introduced as one to bring peace**
    - **Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."**
  - **Jesus brought peace to mankind by becoming a sacrificial lamb...**
    - He brought the two parties back together... God and man, again in fellowship
      - ◆ **Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.**

- Jesus death and resurrection have made it so we could have peace with God...

➤ **Consider for a moment...**

- That God exists... and He is a great and mighty judge
- And He will render terrible judgment on all those who broke his laws...
- And you are not at peace with this judge because you owe too much
  - And you have nothing to offer...
- But, someone steps in to broker a peace agreement b/w you and God...
  - That is what Jesus has done...
- **Let that peace RULE in your hearts...**

➤ **You were called in one body... to the peace of Christ**

- Finally Paul gives this statement...
- He is reminding them to be at peace with one another...
- Within the church there is to be peace...
- Why? Because we are one body...
- Be at peace within the body...
- But even more so because we are the body of Christ...
  - And Jesus has come to bring us peace and unity within His body

➤ **In Summary: Since there are many aspects to letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts**

- **We are to allow His Peace...** which we have come to know through His Word
  - We are to allow it to **rule**... to make the decisions and judgments in our lives
  - Within the **church**, His peace is to rule over and within the body
  - Within your **hearts** it is to **rule** over your fears and anxieties...
    - ◆ Because you have become acquainted with His peace in His **Word**
    - ◆ When **fear** arises and **anxieties** arise... you run to that peace of Christ
  - **In regards to your status with God...**
    - ◆ You know Jesus has made peace b/w you and God
    - ◆ Because as God, He himself died for your peace...
    - ◆ This is set... you benefit greatly from this, even though you do not deserve it
  - **So, when fear creeps in over life and death...**
    - ◆ Peace should rule because you know in whom you believe!
    - ◆ **2 Timothy 1:12 For I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.**

❖ **5) Be thankful**

- **And be thankful.**

➤ **Paul makes a simple point that believers be thankful...**

- This is a very easy concept to grasp...
- We expect our children to be thankful when they are given something nice
- We expect them to be thankful for what has been provided for them

➤ **Thankful: I like to give you a definition or explain a word so you understand it better...**

- There is no need to do this here...
- You know what it means to be thankful...
- When someone does something good to us... we say THANK YOU...
- When you are given a cookie... you say thankful, or a present... thank you

➤ **But... Paul is not just asking that we say thank you...**

- He says BE thankful...
- To BE means that you exist in that state...
- You are in a state of thankfulness

➤ **Thankfulness describes your general state of being**

- You are a thankful person...

- Let me illustrate this to you from a story in the Old Testament...
- In my reading through the Bible and being in the book of Numbers...
- I came across this very interesting “situation” for the children of Israel...
- **They were complaining in the wilderness about manna**
  - Let me set the stage... They had been in Egypt for 400 years and had become slaves
  - They were crying out to God to deliver them...
  - God sends Moses and Ten plagues... next thing you know they are at the red sea
  - And God opens the waters to allow them to cross
  - Then the waters come crashing down on their enemies...
- **Then, They wondered around in the wilderness for the next forty years...**
  - And it is such a long time because the older generation was afraid to go into the promise land
  - So they all had to die first...
  - During all these years of wondering around in the desert... God is providing food for them
  - Every morning manna covers the ground
  - Every day they have free food... food they did not have to plant and work the ground for
  - Food that is free to them
  - We also know that their clothes and sandals
  - never wore out while they were in the wilderness...
- **But... Look at what happened in Numbers 11**
  - **Numbers 11:4-6** <sup>4</sup> Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup> We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. <sup>6</sup> But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”
  - **Moses wrote that the manna was like the tast of cakes made with oil...**
    - Yet, the people complained...
    - But God had something to say to them:
      - **Numbers 11:18-20** <sup>18</sup> And say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. <sup>19</sup> You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, <sup>20</sup> but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the Lord who is among you and have wept before him, saying, “Why did we come out of Egypt?” ’
    - And God sent them lots and lots of quail... and He sent a plague because of their complaints
- **Adam and eve had a similar problem**
  - They were not content with the hundreds of trees for fruit
  - They had to have the one they were told they could not have
- **Thankfulness comes from a heart of contentment**
  - God has been good to us... We ought to be thankful for what He has done...
  - Be thankful for your clothes... your money, your vehicle, your church, your church people
  - It is ok to want more... but want more from a thankful heart...
  - **Also, evaluate yourself and how God is handling you...**
    - Are you under discipline because of sin, so He is keeping blessings from you
    - Is He waiting to bless you until you learn how to manage what He has given you already
    - Are the areas you are suffering in a cause for God to be glorified in you
      - ◆ You being thankful in a difficult situation may bring greater glory to God
  - In all these things, be thankful...
- **To be thankful... you must be walking in relationship with Jesus daily**
  - So you know His heart...
  - And here we finally come to the key for making all of this true...

## ❖ 6) Let Christ's Word Dwell in you Richly!

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

- We have already looked at this a bit... but lets look more
- He is speaking to the Congregation as a whole... and to the individual

### ➤ Let the Word of Christ Dwell in you Richly

- Paul is saying very clearly... let the Word of Christ (the Bible)
- Dwell in you richly... Meaning it is to live in you
- It is not only to live in you, but it is to live in abundance...

#### ▪ **Illustration:**

- Think of this in terms of dwelling places...
- I read about this guy who collected beanie babies...
- And He had thousands of them... and they were all over his house...
- You go into his bathroom... Beanie babies... Kitchen... beanie babies
- His living room... beanie babies... closets and cabinets filled with beanie babies...
- The beanie babies were dwelling with this guy abundantly...
- There was no place in his home you could go where there was no beanie baby

#### ▪ **The Word of Christ ought to dwell within you richly**

- No matter what compartment of your life you go into...
  - ◆ the Word of Christ ought to be living there
- **In the part of your life dealing with relationships... Word of Christ**
- Spouse: Word of Christ
- Children: Word of Christ
- Friends or Co Workers: Word of Christ
- What you think about, How you make a decision on where and when and how you work
- Making decisions on how you spend your money, what you do with your gifts

#### ▪ **The Word of Christ ought to live in every crook and crevice of your life...**

- So that it is there in every circumstance...
- You have read it... you have memorized it... you have meditated on it

#### ▪ **When this is true...: the rest of Colossians 3:1-17 has a chance to come true...**

- Butting to death what is earthly... putting on compassionate hearts... humility, meekness, love, bearing with one another, forgiving one another, peace of Christ and thankfulness

### ➤ **Then, after it is dwelling in you richly... you are to: Be Teaching and Admonishing One Another**

- When God's Word is in you, you can teach and admonish
- Teach means to give knowledge... admonish means to warn and instruct
- How... in all Wisdom
  - And you gain this Wisdom through the Word of Christ...
- Why is it that we have so few teachers and instructors and leaders in the church...
  - Because there are very few people letting the Word of Christ dwell richly

### ➤ **Also... Singing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**

- Our praise ought to come from the Word...
- Being in the Word ought to provoke our hearts to sing out to God for the wonderful things He has done
- Often times, people sing softly or not at all... because they have nothing to sing about
- God's Word is almost void in their life
- Why would they sing... they have nothing to sing about...

### ➤ **How?... With thankfulness in your hearts to God**

- So, here the attitude of our hearts is when we sing is to be governed by thankfulness
- And it is a natural progression... The Word gives us reason to sing...
  - Because it has shown us the great love and mercy of Jesus toward sinners
  - In His Word for us on the Cross, and His victory over sin and death in His Resurrection
- Therefore we sing with thankful hearts,,,
- Finally this morning... to sum everything up

## ❖ 7) Do Everything in the Name of Jesus

- **17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**
- This is only possible when you are treasuring Jesus above all things
- Because you know Him... you spend time with Him daily
- You meditate on His word regularly
- **Do Everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus**
  - Whatever you do in Word or Deed
  - How you talk and how you act
  - So... if you can not say something in the name of Jesus...
  - **Name of Jesus: As a representative of Jesus...**
    - I say this as the ambassador of Jesus...
    - Wow... a lot would just go unsaid wouldn't it...
  - I will act like this, or do this... as a representative of Jesus...
    - A lot would go undone right?
  - **Paul says everything... not some things...**
    - Wow... what a powerful rule to live by...
    - Every word that comes from my mouth, and every action of my body...
    - Is to be governed as if I am doing it in the name of Jesus
      - ◆ Let's think on that for a minute
- **Giving thanks to God the Father through Him**
  - Again... Give thanks...
  - This should be a common occurrence for you every day....
  - Not just a repetition prayer... thanks for the day, thanks for the food
  - But give heart felt thanks to the Father through Jesus...
- **It looks like this:**
  - You are so thankful to God that He would take a sinner like you
  - And make you holy and pure and blameless in His eyes
  - Through Jesus Christ...
- **There is not other way to feel than to feel thankful for the blessings God has given you**
  - Do not be a complainer because you are only getting the manna...
  - Jesus is the manna that has come down from heaven...
  - Do not long for the world... for the things of this world...
  - They are no good for you... Christ is enough... He is truly all you need
  - Everything else is fading away... Do not give in to the lie...
  - This American lie that you must have Stuff...
- **Jesus is enough**

## ❖ Invitation