

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 15

Discipleship Hour, 10/16/2020

Colossians 3:12-17 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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. 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.

Notice “one another” (3x); “elect” in v.12 as a plural noun; and v.15 “one body.” Paul had laid the theological groundwork for this practical section in earlier verses:

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

Colossians 2:17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. (Where substance stands for the Body)

Colossians 2:19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that* is from God.

Remember the context: Christ is all and in all. Because you have died to self and now live to God, have put off you, you can put on Christ. Thus, the “Therefore:”

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

This is a Christian's clothing because "elect" or "chosen ones" are God's picked representatives of a new humanity - Chosen in Christ:

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Chosen according to foreknowledge of God the Father

1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Peter 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

You are chosen - so live as chosen. Put on Christ:

Christian's clothing (5x again)

1. Tender mercies = Compassion (a ready sympathy that is displayed in outward acts of goodness)
2. Kindness -consider the kindness of God, Jesus, Holy Spirit in relations to others
3. Humility = Lowliness - one's relation to self...
4. Meekness – disposition; Meek = mild, not weak.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jesus came lowly and meek and because of it, the world missed Him. To the Jew, a Lord was lofty. To the Greek, a Sovereign was strong. To God, "the meek shall inherit the earth." Meek is mighty because humility brings exaltation. (The strong inwardly have no need to show themselves strong outwardly.)

1. Longsuffering = Patience (without limit) (fruit)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

Forbearing and forgiving is the activity of meekness and patience. Patience keeps you from being angry quickly, Meekness from being angry wrongly. Forbearance is calm in spite of provocation. Forgiveness is the second mile of removing wrong.

How and Why we forgive = "as the Lord has forgiven you"

Matthew 6:12-13 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

There is to be no retaliation. The word for "forgive" here is from give and grace or, to give graciously = unconditional. An unforgiving heart is an unrepentant heart and where you find unrepentance, you will not find faith.

Recap: Due to a pure motive for others' good, acts of kindness flow out even under a patient acceptance of wrongs without resentment or bitterness, all made possible by a low esteem of self's claims, thus exhibiting an outward calm in a true ministration of reconciliation because Christ is all and He is in all (others).

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

The perfect GLUE!

This outward life is by inward welfare: 3 rules are given for this to be attained:

1. the ruling peace of Christ v.15
2. the indwelling Word of Christ v.16
3. the all-hallowing Name of Christ v.17

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Peace is Jesus' legacy to you (parting gift):

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jesus' legacy but not apart from Himself:

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Regardless of outward influence, the heart can be at peace. "Let" = give it place. Let it "rule" = "umpire" = arbitrate. The "your" is plural, showing this peace is true for an individual but seen in community context.

Wherever and whenever differences threaten the life of the church in fellowship and unity, let peace decide in favor of love. Thus, "to which you were called in one body." This is how you hold fast to the Head, nourished and knit together.

"And be thankful" (lit. "become thankful"). Paul knew they were; He wants a growing thankfulness.

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Thankfulness is the Measure of depth of trust. Paul's examples in the NT show a duty: Always...in every situation...in everything...whatever the condition; give THANKS.

This gratitude or "thankfulness in your hearts to God the Father" leads to v.16-17:

Colossians 3:16-17 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. 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.

Peace rules inwardly as the Word rules outwardly. As we receive the Word as our standard of living, our living in the community rises to the standard.) The Word is to dwell richly (given a wide reception). Thusly, mutual upbuilding through teaching and admonishing contributes to our experience of grace.

Notice you are to know Christ and His Word. They are inseparable but nevertheless distinguishable. You cannot know Christ without His Word, but to know the Word without Christ is to know the letter of the law and not the spirit.

"and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with grace." NOTE: from the heart shows that to sing well is not a requirement, but from the heart, is.

So, Because you have the peace of Christ (15); Because you have the Word of Christ (16); Do everything in the Name of Christ (17). Not simply religious matters only, but everything. Jesus' Name will give small things significance. Jesus Name will give big things perspective. It hallows all because to be "in the name" is to be vitally related to him in His will.

Notice the shift from Christ in v.16 to Jesus in v.17 (name above all names)

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

To do all, in word and in deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus is to be under the authority and in the power of that Name (Sheliach).

In the context of the Book, "giving thanks" is the key note of the believer's life since...

Ch. 1 He is pre-eminent in all

Ch. 2 You have come to fullness of life in Him

Ch. 3 You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

So

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

...thankful with His peace ruling in your heart

Colossians 3:16 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.

...thankful with His Word ruling in your life

Colossians 3:17 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.

...thankful with His Name ruling your lips

Christ is all and in all!