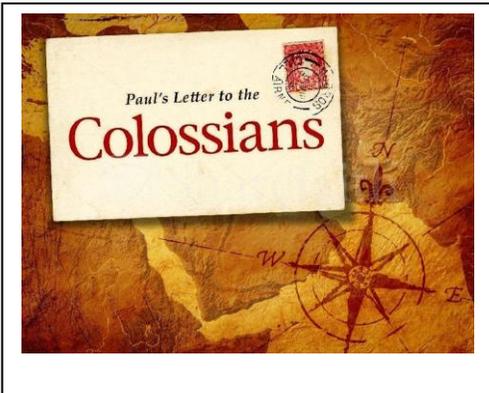


Sunday September 13th, 2020

Sermon Series- "Lord, I Want to Know You More!"

Outline and Bible Study on the Introduction of the Book of Colossians

"Priorities for a New Life That We May Glorify Him More!" ***(Colossians 3:15-17)***



Introduction: What kind of a church body should we strive to be in these times?

What kind of church are we?

I. Let the peace of Christ rule over us more. (Col. 3:15)

II. Let the Word of Christ live in us more. (Col. 3:16a)

III. Let the songs of Christ flow from us more. (Col. 3:16b)

IV. Let the Name of Christ go with us more. (Col. 3:17)

Conclusion: What kind of a church would the local church that I attend be if everyone was just like me?

Bible Study Guide #10 and Question and Answer Sheet for Colossians 3:15-17 “The Priorities of the Risen life!”

1. What do churches need more of and most to be in order to survive these Covid-19 times? What should be a Christ-like church’s priorities to reach others now?

Welcome to our tenth week through the book of Colossians. These three verses contain some weighty truths: the peace of Christ, the Word of Christ, the songs of Christ, and the glory of Christ. Paul encouraged the Colossians (and us!) to allow these priorities to be paramount not just for us as individuals, but for us as a whole collective of our church body. We must be people with the reputation of these four wonderful priorities.



Let’s review and remember the context: we want to live the risen life (vs. 1-4); to put off much of our old fleshly ways and old patterns from our old life (vs. 5-11); and put on like garments more characters of the new life (vs. 12-14).

I believe that Paul was addressing all of the believers of the church collectively and asking them to make the four issues which he brought up in these verses a priority. Notice the words: “Let us!” are hortatory imperatives. That means they are important commands for all of us! In modern English, we don’t have words that talk about “2nd person plural” as we did years ago with the words: “Ye.” This expressed the second person as whole set or a group of many persons. Today we do hear the southern “Y’all” or in Philadelphia “Youse guys”. That was what Paul was doing, saying: “God’s people need to do this together!” It’s a call to be this kind of people. We want to be this kind of a church!

Let’s ask ourselves as a community of believers to prepare us for this study, and if you can find a partner to answer these questions back and forth between the two of you, please do so:

A.) What have you sensed that God is speaking to you through personal prayer and Bible reading concerning this passage of Colossians?

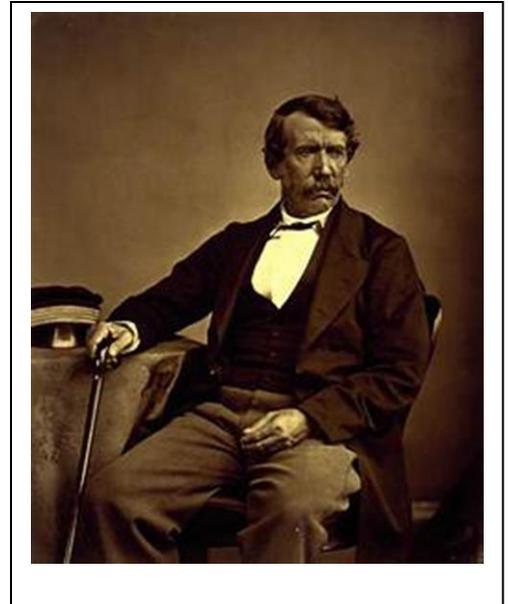
B. How has your life given testimony to the greatness of Jesus? Do you long to be more like Him?

C. What specific ways have you seen God bless you? How have you shared those?

D. In what area of your life or situation has it been toughest to put Christ first?

2. Read Colossians 3:15-17. What immediately stands out to you? Does anything in this passage particularly confuse you? Does anything encourage you? What convicts you most?

Remember the old saying “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?” It actually came from the life of missionary David Livingstone who was an explorer and pioneer African missionary. His heart longed to take the Gospel message to what people in his day called the “dark” continent. It was called dark because of the spiritual lostness, not because of the skin color of the Africans as most historians believe. When David Livingstone was about to cross Africa for his first venture, he had the help of many strong guides and “carriers” for his anticipated supplies. He wanted to enter into the harshest areas of the Congo at that time. After announcing what course he hoped to take, he was surprised and shocked when his helpers burst into tears and sat down and cried. When with the help of translators he asked why they were doing that, the translators came back saying, “These men are strong men. They do not cry because they are cowards. They cry as they anticipate the thoughts of the terrific hardship which they know lay before them.”



How many believers who are to live the “risen life” really know the hardships that lay ahead of them in their Christian walk? Would you react this way if you had known at the beginning of 2020 what was ahead for the year? How does this passage give you hope for the unknown trials that still lay ahead for God’s people and His church? I wish we could get to the year 2021 sooner! Don’t you?

3. When have you experienced the peace that only Christ can bring in your own life?

Peace is the absence of agitation and disturbance. It is a sense of tranquility as opposed to unrest. Some define it as an attitude of “rest”. The word for “rule” has been translated “to arbitrate a decision, to make the choice by this standard.” The word is only used here in the Bible and isn’t used anywhere else. I love how Biblical translator Ken Wuest translated this phrase as: “let the peace of Christ step in and act as an umpire in your heart.” Where there is a conflict of motives or impulses or reasons, the peace of Christ must step in and decide which is to prevail. Literally, be an umpire.

Read the following verses: How does this help you with Christ's peace in a world filled with no peace and continual unrest?

John 14:27-

John 16:33-

Romans 5:1-2-

Romans 14:19-

Philippians 4:4-8-

Hebrews 12:14-

Isaiah 26:3-

Isaiah 48:22-



4. When we allow the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts, how can it bring:

- **peace between us and God?**
- **peace between us and others?**
- **peace within ourselves?**

What causes quarrels? Cross-reference these verses to discern the answer:

James 4:1-

Psalms 119:65-

Ephesians 4:30-31-

Romans 12:18-

To what lengths should we go to ensure peace with others? Often it is said that one of the ways we can discern God's will is whether we experience His "peace." If you don't have a peace about a decision, perhaps it's not what God wanted. We must be aware of false peace. Some who do wrong may have a "peace" about what they are attempting to do, but it doesn't come from God. Having peace of heart alone is not always the "peace" of God. So what principles help us in decision making?

A. A significant test to apply to determining the origin of the peace is this: "If I have peace in my heart about the matter, do I also have peace with others in the body of Christ concerning it?" Understandably, not everyone will agree on any single issue, but if only the person himself thinks he is right, he has

reason to question his decision. If we are out of the will of God, we will bring discord to the body of true believers. I realize the difficulty in assessing who is a true believer, especially in a group situation. Sometimes those who are part of the group do not evidence salvation themselves. Other times, some may clearly evidence salvation but give little evidence of mature judgment in things related to the Christian life.

B. A second test is to search the Scriptures. Always make sure it lines up with what God's Word says. One of the best safeguards against a false peace is simply making sure that you have the desire to please Jesus Christ in all that you do. Is it our major concern that "in all things He might have preeminence" (Col 1:18)? You can trust Him to bring conviction when our lives are not honoring Him.

C. A third test to check out the genuineness of the peace is to evaluate whether or not you are heeding the last part of Colossians 3:15: "And be thankful." When there is peace of God in the heart, there will be thanksgiving in the heart. A Christian out of God's will is never filled with true praise to God. We are filled with doubt, fear, and complaining. In any church, if some individuals are not experiencing the peace of God personally, there will be disunity and incompatibility in the group. Do we have an attitude of gratitude?

5. Read verse 16. Put in your own words how one can have more of God's Word dwell in us?

The Greek word used for "dwell" means: "To make yourself at home; to live in a comfortable at ease way; to fill out and enlarge yourself in your domain." The exhortation is in effect that a Christian is to have a hominess of the Word in his life. We must have it "richly" or "abundantly." The Holy Spirit works in our lives by the truth.

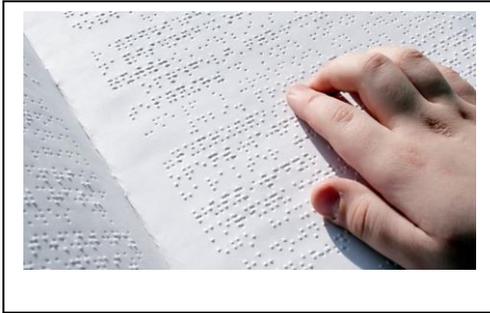
Choose from the following ways you experience God's Word as an input each week:

- a. ___ I attend Sunday preaching. *(Never miss a week).
- b. ___ I listen to webcasts and sermons online.
- c. ___ I read a daily devotion from Scripture.
- d. ___ I memorize Scripture on a monthly basis and follow a plan for it.
- e. ___ I listen to Scripture as I drive to work.
- f. ___ I have devotions with my family every night.
- g. ___ I have a prayer time at our dinner table every day.
- h. ___ I do actively attend a Bible study group.
- j. ___ other means of interaction with Scripture: _____.

Now look back and review. Am I missing the inputting of Scripture on a regular basis in my life? How can I get the Word of God in me more? What will I do about that?

6. What does it mean and how important is it to allow the message of Christ to 'dwell in you richly?' Cross-reference to Psalm 19:7-10 and list the ways God's Word helps us and becomes like gold treasure in our lives!

To what degree would you go to gain the riches of Christ's Word to help you daily? A missionary in France told of a little French girl who became a believer. Although she had been blind from birth, she knew how to read



Braille. Someone gave her the gospel of Mark in Braille, and she loved it so much that she eventually developed calluses on her fingers from reading it so often. Those calluses meant that she no longer could read the Braille because it completely desensitized her touch. In frantic measures to not lose the daily touch of the Word which she loved, she tried to remove the calluses. She took a blade and hoped to make her fingers

more sensitive, she only managed to damage herself more by peeling all the skin from her fingers. Her fingers became permanently scarred. Believing she would never read again, she bent down to give the pages of God's Word a farewell kiss. As she did, she soon realized that her lips were more sensitive than her fingers. She then learned how to read God's Word with her lips. Do you desire to have a love for the Word like that? Your Christian life is a direct reflection of how you view the treasure of God's Word!

7. Why is music important to our church and to your church experiences? Read verse 16 again. Note the references about music! Why do people fight and argue about music in church more than any other issue?

The result of music in the congregation is shared here as a twofold purpose: "In all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another". Teaching is the building up of knowledge and information. The word admonish means to "correct." Teaching says, "Do this," while admonishing says, "Don't do that. That's not right!" Admonishing warns people that if they continue in a certain behavior, God will chasten them. So if we sing the songs we do every Sunday, are we careful to see if the songs are helping us spiritually? Singing is a sign of being "Spirit-filled" according to Ephesians 5:19. When it comes to the matter of discernment in our church music, the first question we want to ask is, "What does the Bible say?" I think we can all agree that what the Bible says should govern how we think about music and if we can sing in church. But the reality is, the Bible says very little to help us define the "parameters" of the style or kind of church music. It just tells us to sing! It never tells us what kinds are right or wrong to sing. We know the making of musical instruments began in Genesis 4:21 and we know that choirs and instruments were used by God's people in worship and even in war! (Num. 10:10; 2 Chron. 5:12-14; Josh. 6:4; 2 Chron. 20, etc.). We know that musicians played vital roles in temple worship

all through the Old Testament. When we turn to the New Testament, we read that our Lord and His disciples sang hymns together (Mark 14:26). We can surmise that there must have been music involved in the believers' worship (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 2:46-47; Acts 16:25). When Paul gives commands to involve worship in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-20 he references three categories of music: "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." That is all that is



said. It doesn't say what century those songs were written or if they were classical style or hand-clapping style. When we get to the throne of heaven, Revelation 5:8-10 records lots of singing and songs (Rev. 14:2-3; Rev. 15:2-4). Again, all we see is the command to sing and the expressions of worship, but we do not see a list of what songs to sing. Isn't it interesting there is essentially no specific instruction in Scripture, including in the New Testament,

concerning the regulation and usage of music? Even in the Epistles you never see the writers instruct about music in the church! We only know we are to sing all kinds, and in all ways, and in all circumstances. The conclusion is evident: "The Bible is nearly silent about what kind of music we should sing in church." Look again at this verse:

Note: "In psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

- a. "psalms"- This basically referred to something out of the Old Testament Psalms. Have you ever taken the time to study Psalms daily? Or attempted to sing a phrase from the Psalms? Try it.
- b. "hymns"- Hymns were basically expressions of praise to God. It is believed by many scholars that Colossians 1:15-20 was an actual New Testament passage sung as a hymn by the church. It carries the idea that some important doctrine is taught in the song.
- c. "spiritual songs"- These are songs which emphasized personal testimony. Many modern songs and praise choruses are spiritual songs.
- d. "singing with grace"- This refers to the spirit of letting the beauty of God's forgiving and redeeming grace be expressed outwardly in our singing. If we are singing a song, do you take time to have grace if you don't particularly like the way the song is expressed? How can you learn grace through our singing time in church? Remember the primary purpose of music is to minister to the Lord-not us. We just tune in as bystanders. Our singing is to be to the Lord!

8. What are some songs of Christ which have meant the most to your spiritual growing and living?

Write your favorite hymn:

Write your favorite psalm:

Write your favorite spiritual song:

How can you make music more of a witness and daily factor to help you grow more? What are the guiding principles for our music at Palisades Community Bible Church today? I want to share with you about how we discern which songs are to be sung in church. Here are the ones I've used and talked about with our worship team and leaders:

- Christ is to be exalted and given glory in our church. This includes all music! (Eph. 3:21; Col. 1:18). So we first ask if that music or song will fit this first standard. That said, it still doesn't address how fast or slow, or what kind of instruments should be played.
- Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 both connect the ministry of the Word of God and music. Preaching and teaching, and music function together. And in Psalm 150 all manner of instruments are used: cymbals, drums, stringed instruments, wind instruments. All mannerisms are used: clapping, dancing, and movement. It is not wrong or sinful if music makes you clap, raise your hands, or tap your toe. It is not sinful to dance before the Lord (2 Sam. 6:14, Ecclesiastes 3:4; Psalm 30:11; Jeremiah 31:13; Psalm 149:3 just to cite a few Scriptures). Music that causes movement is not sinful. Music that does cause you to fall asleep may be another issue but not for church.
- In 1 Corinthians 14:26, Paul clearly instructs that what we do in our worship services, praying, including singing of songs, is to be done for the edification and building up of the body of Christ. So when you look at a song, you need to be measuring and thinking to yourself, not "I don't like the beat" but if the words and style help you to think about growing in the Lord. Now, before you answer that, be honest to admit that personal likes and dislikes shouldn't be where we start. Some songs and lyrics will still edify others even if it doesn't edify you. Classical music is not somehow better than Christian rock because it is older. Remember, "new" is not synonymous with "bad!" Be careful not to throw to out "hymns" because they are old, or "spiritual songs" because they are "new."
- There is a principle of clarity taught by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:7, 19. Music that is not clear in both meaning and presentation should be judged fairly before you dismiss it or accept it.

- There is a principle of “singability” taught in 1 Cor. 14:33, 40. If the whole of the congregation can’t sing it together, because the syncopation is all over the place, then perhaps it isn’t a song to sing as a congregation. Maybe the song features the solo voice and should be used as special music, but don’t expect the “whoa” and “ooohs” to be sung by the whole congregation.
- There is allowance for different styles and speeds of music. Eph. 5:18-19 reminds us that we can sing hymns, songs, or spiritual songs. So if



there is no piano, it isn’t wrong for the congregation in South America to sing with guitars; nor is it wrong for the congregation in Europe to sing with a symphony. But that may not fit the gifts and skills at PCBC. We really must follow how God has gifted our church congregation. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 reminds us to recognize that we are not all alike, nor do we have the same function in

church with our gifts and talents. This is true in our music ministries. There must be an appreciation for a variety of gifts, talents, and abilities. I remember growing up in my home country church and enjoying the occasional “clarinet” solo from a young budding student, or the trumpet solos of our marine Greg. Appropriate use of differing people takes wisdom and practice.

- Romans 12:15 speaks to the importance of understanding the occasion and emotional condition of the congregation. There are some services where it is very inappropriate to end the service with an “upbeat or fast” song if I’ve preached a gospel invitation. Yet, also there are times when we should leave with upbeat hearts. During this reopening of the church from Covid-19 I’ve given the music team express instruction that I want us to be toe tapping, hand clapping, rejoicing, and celebrating when we leave church because it is important to gather after being locked down for months. Have you sensed that each week since June when we opened? And hasn’t it made an impact on us? Effective music ministers to the weary as well as the rejoicing.

How our congregation sings is a powerful testimony about our joy in Christ. If we are giving off the testimony that we must be dull and boring, or professional and impractical, a stage performance or selfish stage show, then we are not doing our job. Does the culture influence church music? Yes. There are some wonderful new songs coming out that we’ve been singing because of the great theology. An example is Newsboys’ song “*Hallelujah for the Cross!*” Another

example would be Andrew Peterson's immensely popular song "*He is Worthy!*" Keith and Kristin Getty are influencing our hymnody with their seemingly limitless writing and composing of many beautiful psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs such as "*He Will Hold Me Fast*" and "*In Christ Alone*". Our present new hymns that we've started to sing are "*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*" by Matthew Merker and from Cityalight, "*Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me.*" Rest assured, we are committed to keeping, learning, and singing the good old hymns such as "*Amazing Grace,*" and "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness.*" The Psalmist wrote so appropriately, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord... Come into His presence with singing... enter His courts with praise!... Bless His name!" (Psalm 100). May it be that we are growing and appreciating the importance of singing and worshipping. Keep the church as a whole in prayer during these days.

9. Three times in these verses a particular attitude is mentioned. What and why does it seem to be so important to Paul? Why would this attitude help believers in areas of quarrels, singing in church, or everyday working?

What does it mean to be thankful? Ephesians 5:20 says "in everything give thanks!" How are you at showing a thankful attitude at church? Can you go to church and share with three individuals three things you are thankful about at Palisades Community Bible Church? Try it for a whole month!

10. What according to verse 17 is our paramount concern? This is a wonderful overarching guide for our Christian lives. To glorify means Christ is to get the credit and all we do represents Him. That's what it means to glorify the Lord! Pick one of the three verses and memorize it. Which one will be your priority for this next week?

Ask yourself if you are helping our church to bring glory to Christ. God created the world to display His power and His patience, His glory and His grace (Romans 9:22-23). Therefore, He commands His creatures to do everything they do for His glory.

Yet it is easy to talk about God's glory so much that we become dull in our thinking and feeling of it. But 1 Corinthians 10:31 insists that the problem isn't thinking about it too much. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." We must not do things that cause people to stumble or question or doubt our Christian life. No, the glory of God is to be directly tied to every aspect of the Christian life—even the everyday details like eating and drinking. Rather, the issue is neglecting God's glory, whether from a dull heart or a self-seeking heart or any kind of heart that does not aim at the high call of pleasing God.

So, there is a way to eat bread that makes the Bread of Life look desirable

(John 6:35, 48, 51). There is a way to drink water that makes Living Water look satisfying (John 4:10–11; 7:37–38). Yes, there is a way to eat food and be intimate with our spouses and do anything else when and only when the Word of God and prayer and thankfulness permeate and thus sanctify the eating and drinking and the doing (1 Timothy 4:1–5).

Again, it is easy to say that you do all for God's glory. But Jesus gives us a crucial test in John 5:44 when He asks, "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" In other words, it is impossible to rightly pursue the glory of God when your life is centered on receiving approval from man.

So, test your heart as you seek to obey God's command through the Apostle Paul. Think about every area of your life—eating and drinking and walking and talking and parenting and reading and writing and sleeping—and ask God, "How can I give You all the glory in all of my life?" Then rest in His Word. For He gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3–4). So, trust Him.

