

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE FINISH OUR STUDY OF COL. ~ 3: ~ 12-17.

▶▶ Since we spent a lot of time looking at the details, ~ it might help us begin our conclusion of this paragraph ~ with a look once again ~ at the big picture.

▷▷ Because it's very easy ~ to lose sight of the forest for the trees.

▷▷ Also, ~ not everyone has been here ~ for each message on this passage, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ so a look at the big picture ~ will help you tie the details together ~ in your reading.

→→ And bring you up to speed for today.

RECALL ~ IN COL. ~ 3: ~ 5-11, ~ PAUL INSTRUCTED BELIEVERS ~ TO MAKE ~ a ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ ¶¶

▶▶ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature.

▶▶ Since ~ we are ~ new creations in Christ, ~ we are ~ to totally ~ eliminate these things ~ from our lives.

▷▷ What belongs to our ~ old nature ~ is not ~ compatible with ~ or suitable for ~ our new nature.

AND IN ~ 3: ~ 12-17, ~ PAUL ~ TURNED HIS ATTENTION ~ to telling us ~ to replace the old ~ with what is ~ compatible with ~ and suitable for ~ our new nature. ¶¶ 1/15

▶▶ Basically, ~ in this paragraph, ~ Paul ~ exhorts believers ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to replace ~ the things belonging to the old nature ~ with a whole new set of ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and ~ patterns of behavior.

▶▶ New set = Godliness.

▷▷ Old set ~ i.e., ~ what belongs to sin nature = Ungodliness.

↳↳ And the new set ~ is to replace the old.

▶▶ Perhaps we could simplify this ~ this way.

▷▷ In Col. ~ 3: ~ 12-17, ~ Paul ~ commands believers ~ to embrace and practice ~ godliness ~ in ~ every area of our lives ~ in place of ~ ungodliness.

▷▷ In contrast ~ to ungodliness, ~ which characterized our old nature, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ godliness ~ in every area of our lives ~ is ~ well-matched with ~ and appropriate for ~ our new nature.

▶▶ This ~ is Paul's overall point ~ in Col. ~ 3: ~ 12-17.

▶▶ We find ~ the command ~ presenting and governing ~ the topic of the ¶ ~ in verse 12a.

▷▷ "Put on therefore."

▷▷ And everything else ~ is an expansion ~ on this command.

AND IN HIS EXPANSION ~ PAUL DOES ~ TWO THINGS. ¶¶ 2/15

▶▶1st, ~ he gives us the reason ~ this replacement ~ must take place.

↳↳As we observed, ~ because ~ we are ~ chosen by God, ~ made holy by him, ~ and ~ dearly loved by him, ~ ¶¶

→→we ~ are to embrace and practice ~ that ~ which is ~ compatible with ~ and suitable for ~ such a status.

↳↳And godliness, ~ in every area of our lives, ~ is the ~ only thing ~ that fits the bill.

→→In no ~ way, ~ shape, ~ or ~ form ~ does ungodliness ~ fit the bill.

▶▶And 2nd, ~ in vv. ~ 12c-17, ~ Some examples ~ of what godliness ~ looks like.

▷▷TPID, ~ illustrations ~ of what we are to embrace & practice ~ as the people of God.

AND TODAY, ~ WE'LL FINISH THE PARAGRAPH UP ~ BY EXAMINING THE LAST TWO examples ~ of what we are to embrace and practice.

▶▶And again, ~ while we are ~ to embrace and practice godliness ~ in private ~ and ~ in relation to unbelievers and believers alike, ~ ¶¶

▷▷in this paragraph ~ Paul ~ is primarily talking about ~ our relationships ~ with other believers ~ in our local church.

THE NEXT EXAMPLE ~ IS IN VERSE 16a.

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY.

▶▶"the word of Christ," ~ is literal. ⇔⇔ Obj. gen.: ~ "the word, ~ or instruction, ~ about Christ." ¶¶ 3/15

▶▶ It is possible ~ to understand the phrase as, ~ "the word from Christ."

▷▷ However, ~ the fact ~ that believers ~ are to teach and admonish one another ~ means ~ that a body of instruction ~ about Christ ~ is most likely on view.

▶▶ Also, ~ keep in mind, ~ the historical context of Colossians.

▷▷ Paul was battling false teaching.

▷▷ Some of you will recall that ~ in ~ 2: ~ 6b, ~ Paul called believers to ~ Continue to stay faithful ~ to sound doctrine about Jesus ~ in the face of false teaching."

▷▷ And this adds support to looking at ~ 3: ~ 16a as ~ sound instruction about Jesus.

▷▷ Because, ~ logically, ~ it makes sense that after calling us to remain faithful, ~ Paul would subsequently exhort us ~ to learn sound doctrine.

↪↪ We need to know ~ what to stay faithful to.

▷▷ The best antidote to ~ false teaching, ~ is ~ sound teaching.

↪↪ And we ~ who preach here at NHCC, ~ employ this antidote ~ every week. ~~

▶▶ So, ~ the phrase ~ "the word of Christ," ~ means the word/instruction ~ about Christ.

▷▷ Trans.: ~~ Let the instruction/teaching about Christ ~ dwell in you richly.

▶▶ Now, ~ for us, ~ this would refer to the whole Bible.

▷▷ At time of Paul's writing of Col., ~ NT was not complete, ~ only OT. 📖 4/15

▷▷The whole of Scripture ~ points to ~ and testifies of ~ Jesus.

↳↳In Jn. ~ 5: ~ 39, ~ Jesus said to the Jewish leaders, ⇨⇨ You search the Scriptures ~ because you think ~ that in them ~ you have eternal life; ~ and it is they ~ that bear witness ~ about me.

↳↳After his resurrection, ~ on the road to Emmaus with two of the disciples, ~ Luke tells us (Lk. 24:27), ⇨⇨ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, ~ he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures ~ the things concerning himself.

↳↳And Philip & the eunuch.

→→So beginning with this same Scripture, ~ Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

▶▶Let the teaching about Christ ~ dwell in you richly, ~ Paul exhorts us.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION ~ TO THE WORD ~ "LET."

▶▶Recall that ~ just last week I again explained ~ about the word "let."

▷▷The teaching about Christ ~ must ~ dwell in you richly.

CONTINUING IN VERSE 16a, ~ THE PHRASE "IN YOU" ~ CAN BE EASILY CONFUSED IN English ~ with the teaching about Christ indwelling each believer.

▶▶And some argue for that interpretation.

▷▷But, ~ while that is vital to do, ~ having God's word dwell richly within us, ~ that's not ~ what Paul is pointing out ~ here in this context. ↴ 5/15

▷▷It means, ~ and could be translated as, ~ "among you."

↳↳I.e., ~ the teaching about Christ ~ must ~ dwell among you richly.

▷▷IOW, ~ he's saying that ~ God's word, ~ must be central ~ in our church and corporate worship.

▶▶The immediate context ~ shows us ~ that this ~ is more than likely ~ the proper meaning.

▷▷The rest of [verse 16](#), ~ as we'll see, ~ has its focus ~ on the corporate worship ~ of a local body of believers.

▷▷So the context suggests, ~ strongly I would suggest, ~ that Paul ~ is urging a local church ~ as a whole ~ ¶¶

↳↳to put the teaching about Christ ~ at the center of its corporate experience.

▷▷As I said, ~ Paul is saying ~ that God's word, ~ must be central ~ in our church and corporate worship.

▶▶And the historical background ~ argues for this meaning.

▷▷When a local church ~ is centered on God's word, ~ false teaching ~ cannot ~ gain a foothold.

▷▷This becomes even more crucial ~ when we remember that Jude and Peter tell us, ~ false teachers ~ sneak in unnoticed ~ and secretly introduce ~ destructive heresies.

▶▶Now, ~ having said all that, ~ we should add ~ that God's word should be central ~ in our individual lives as well. ¶¶ 6/15

▷▷ This corporate focus ~ does not excuse ~ individual responsibility.

▷▷ Each and every believer ~ is responsible ~ for making God's word central ~ in our lives.

▷▷ This is Peter's implication.

↳↳ In his first epistle, ~ he says ~ that believers are to ready ~ at any time ~ to give a defense ~ to anyone who asks us ~ for a reason ~ for the hope that is in us.

→→ In order to be ready, ~ we must ~ saturate ourselves with Scripture.

▷▷ But for all of life, ~ we must saturate ourselves with God's word.

▷▷ The righteous person in [Ps. 1](#) ~ provides the model for us. ~ [Ps. 1:1-3](#)

▶▶ Getting back to [Col. ~ 3: ~ 16a](#), ~ the teaching about Christ ~ must ~ dwell among you richly.

▷▷ Again, ~ God's word, ~ must be central ~ in our church and corporate worship.

▷▷ Everything we do as a church body, ~ must ~ be an outflow of ~ and line up with ~ Scripture.

▷▷ God's word ~ must be preached from our pulpit ~ every Sunday, ~ year in and year out.

▷▷ The public reading of Scripture ~ is to have a prominent place ~ in every one of our worship services.

↳↳ Paul told Timothy ~ to devote himself ~ to the public reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13). **↴↴ 7/15**

CONTINUING OUR LOOK AT VERSE 16a, ~ PAUL SAYS ~ THAT GOD'S WORD ~ must richly dwell ~ among us.

▶▶ The point is this.

▷▷ Scripture ~ is to take up permanent residence and centrality ~ in our church.

▷▷ One translation puts it this way.

↳↳ Let the Word of Christ, ~ in all its richness, ~ find a home with you.

▷▷ That's the idea.

▶▶ God's word ~ is not to be trotted out ~ only on special occasions, ~ like Christmas and Easter.

▷▷ It is not ~ to be visited ~ only sporadically ~ in our church life.

↳↳ Rather, ~ it must ~ constantly ~ be ~ at the center ~ of our church activities and corporate worship.

▶▶ And solid, ~ in-depth ~ biblical preaching and teaching ~ must constantly ~ be a hallmark of our church.

▶▶ We are committed to all of this here

IN VERSE 16b, ~ PAUL STATES ~ THE MEANS ~ BY WHICH ~ we are to keep God's word ~ central ~ in our church.

TEACHING AND ADMONISHING, ~ PAUL SAYS. ↴ ↴ 8/15

▶▶I.e., ~ the constant instruction of Scripture.

▷▷Something, ~ I think, ~ that is sorely lacking in many churches today. ⇨ But not here.

▶▶"Teaching" ~ is the positive aspect of instruction, ~~ the imparting of truth.

▶▶"Admonishing" ~ is the negative aspect ~ in which ~ warnings are given ~ concerning the standards and obligations ~ of God's word.

▶▶Both aspects ~ are to be present ~ in this constant instruction of Scripture.

▶▶One of the reasons we need ~ the admonishment aspect ~ is that ~ we are so prone to wander.

AND THERE MUST BE, ~ I WOULD SUGGEST, ~ A BALANCE ~ BETWEEN BOTH.

▶▶An imbalance, ~ too much of either aspect ~ will not only give us a distorted view of God's word, ~ but also ~ a distorted view ~ of God himself ~ and ~ of Christianity.

▷▷E.g., ~ a major focus on the positive truths concerning our salvation ~ might lead to easy believism.

↪↪Thinking we have no responsibility to live a holy life in response to this truth.

▷▷On the other hand, ~ too much of the warnings, ~ or, ~ as I like to call it, ~ too much doom and gloom theology, ~ ↴↴

↪↪can make us think ~ that God is some cosmic policeman, ~ waiting to stomp on us when we step out of line.

→→And that Christianity ~ is just a bunch of do's and don'ts. ↴↴ 9/15

▶▶ Expository preaching

THIS BALANCE IS REFLECTED ~ IN PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO TIMOTHY.

▶▶ In 2 Tim. ~ 4: ~ 2, ~ Paul writes, ~ preach the word; ~ be ready in season and out of season; ~ reprove, ~ rebuke, ~ and exhort, ~ with complete patience and teaching.

▷▷ The Greek verb for ~ "exhort" ~ means ~ to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, ~ either ~ by verbal or non-verbal means.

AN INTERESTING NOTE HERE, ~ IN THIS CONSTANT INSTRUCTION OF GOD'S WORD, ~ is that ~ Paul calls ~ on all believers ~ in a local church ~ to teach and admonish.

▶▶ Teaching and admonishing one another.

▶▶ IOW, ~ it is not solely the purview ~ of those specifically ~ called and gifted by God to teach and preach his word.

▶▶ Rather, ~ it is the responsibility of all believers in a church, ~ whether specifically gifted in these areas or not, ~ to do this.

▶▶ The Greek word for ~ teaching ~ in this verse ~ means ~ to provide instruction ~ in a formal ~ or informal ~ setting.

▷▷ So, ~ generally, ~ this instruction is to be done by everyone, ~ both formally and informally.

NOTICE, ~ IN VERSE 16b, ~ THAT THE CONSTANT INSTRUCTION OF GOD'S WORD ~ IS to be done ~ wisely.

▶▶ We're not just ~ to barrel in ~ and say whatever pops into our minds. 📌 10/15

▶▶ We need wisdom ~ from God ~ beforehand

▶▶ We also need ~ to better understand our fellow believers, ~ in order to know what kind of word they need.

▶▶ Prov. 15: ~ 23.

▷▷ Everyone ~ enjoys a fitting reply; ~ it is wonderful ~ to say the right thing ~ at the right time!

▷▷ This speaks ~ of the right answer ~ at the right time.

▷▷ A wrong answer ~ given when a correct answer is sought ~ is misleading.

▷▷ A right answer ~ given at the wrong time ~ may be well-intentioned and technically correct, ~ but could be damaging.

▷▷ The right answer ~ at the right time ~ brings joy and is beneficial.

▶▶ Does the person need admonishment?

▷▷ Or, ~ do they need instruction"

↳↳ Or, ~ encouragement?

→→ "Teach and correct one another ~ wisely," ~ Paul says.

IN VERSE 16c, ~ PAUL ADDS AN INTERESTING NOTE.

NOTICE HE SAYS, ~ SINGING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS. 📖 11/15

▶▶Based on the *Greek* grammar, ~ it seems ~ that Paul is pointing out the following.

▷▷One way ~ in which teaching and admonishing one another ~ is to occur ~ is through the means ~ of singing ~ psalms, ~ hymns, ~ and spiritual songs.

↪↪Interesting, isn't it?

▷▷So, ~ our corporate singing on Sunday mornings ~ is not solely for worship.

↪↪It is also for instruction.

▷▷And this is why ~ we need to make sure ~ we are singing biblically-based hymns and choruses ~ that cover both of these aspects.

▶▶We can probably come up with many reasons why ~ we are not to sing mindlessly.

▷▷And this is a big one. ⇨⇨ **Teaching and admonishing.**

▷▷It is extremely important ~ not ~ to sing mindlessly.

▷▷The Lord is instructing us through singing.

↪↪So, ~ we need to pay attention ~ to what we're singing.

NOW, ~ BEFORE MOVING ON ~ WE SHOULD NOTE THIS.

▶▶No rigid distinctions ~ should be made ~ between "psalms," ~ "hymns," ~ and "spiritual songs."

▶▶Paul is simply emphasizing ~ the rich variety ~ in Christian song. ⇩⇩ **12/15**

▶▶ And most likely showing us that ~ we are to have ~ a rich variety of songs ~ in our worship services.

▷▷ And we do.

↳↳ Choruses & hymns. ⇔⇔ Variety of hymns.

▶▶ If any differences are made, ~~ "psalms" ~ may be taken to refer to The Book of Psalms, ~~ "hymns" and "spiritual songs" ~ to distinctly Christian compositions.

AND NOTICE AGAIN, ~ THE EMPHASIS ON GRATITUDE, ~ VERSE 16d.

WE ARE TO SING ~ WITH THANKFULNESS IN [OUR] HEARTS TO GOD.

AND THE LAST EXAMPLE IS IN VERSE 17. ~~ OF WHAT GODLINESS LOOKS LIKE.

OR, ~ LAST EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE ARE TO EMBRACE AND PRACTICE ~ as God's people.

▶▶ 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 ~ [Gratitude].

THE PHRASE, ~ "WHATEVER YOU DO" ~ POINTS ~ TO THE COMPREHENSIVE NATURE ~ of this exhortation.

▶▶ IOW, ~ Everything we say, ~ everything we do, ~~ in every area of life ~~ do it, ~ Paul says, ~ in the name of the Lord Jesus.

THE PHRASE, ~ IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, ~ TAKES ON A WIDE VARIETY OF nuances.

▶▶ But often ~ the focus is on ~ the nature or character ~ of the Lord. 📖 13/15

▶▶ To do all things ~ "in the name of the Lord Jesus," ~ then, ~ does ~ not mean ~ simply to utter Jesus' name ~ 77

▷▷ but to act ~ always ~ in concert ~ with the nature and character of our Lord.

WE CAN DEVELOP THIS FURTHER.

▶▶ In 2 Cor., ~ Paul says ~ that ~ "we are ambassadors for Christ."

▶▶ This ~ is a great privilege. ⇨⇨ **But also a serious responsibility.**

▷▷ The honor of a country ~ is in its ambassador's hands.

▷▷ Countries are judged ~ by their ambassadors.

▷▷ My . . . , ~ the honor of Jesus and the church ~ is in the hands ~ of each one of us.

↳↳ By every word and action, ~ we can make others think ~ more or less ~ of the Church and ~ of our Savior.

▷▷ Here, ~ perhaps, ~ is a good guide for us.

↳↳ To ask ourselves, ~ "can I really ~ do ~ or say ~ this, ~ since I am representing the Lord Jesus?"

CONCLUSION.

IN CLOSING, ~ NOTICE AGAIN, ~ THE EMPHASIS ON GRATITUDE.

▶▶ 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 ~ [i.e., ~ through Jesus]. 11 14/15

▶▶ The phrase, ~ through him ~ will help us maintain an attitude of gratitude.

▷▷ Because, ~ it is a constant reminder ~ that ~ we have a relationship with God the Father ~ only because ~ of what Jesus has done ~ on our behalf.

LET'S PRAY 15/15