

**SERMON TEXT: Colossians 3:16**

**SERMON TITLE: Christ's Voice and Instrument in Congregational Singing**

**Main idea:** Christ sings His Word through our mouths, "accompanied" by grace in our hearts, in congregational singing.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

## **Introduction**

**What a blessed commandment!** Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Delight yourself in the Lord. Wonderful commandments, and exactly the longings of all Christians! Why, then, do we find them so difficult? Because we live in an age in which the way in which God has instructed these commands to be fulfilled is neglected and even resisted.

**Context:** The essence of the Christian life. Preceded by second great commandment. Followed by first great commandment. This is an absolute essential!

### **1. What to sing: the Word of Christ**

Christ's Word through Christ's Spirit (cf. 1Pet 1:11)

Christ's Word that trained His human thoughts, affections, and choices (cf. Lk 2:40, 52)

Christ's Word that Christ Himself sings in our public worship services (cf. Heb 2:12)

A Word that gives wisdom through teaching and admonishing.

A Word that is designed to train our hearts to express rightly—i.e. Christ-like-ly (a virtuous cycle!)

The Psalms, specifically

### **2. How to sing**

With the intellect, emotion, and will

As an act of submission—not my word but Christ's

As an act of wonder—Christ has given us His Word! Christ *sings through us*—we are His mouth!

In the assembly, everyone together. Christ is THE worship Leader. In singing, we are all "officiants."

With grace in the heart. Grace notes (cf. Eph 5:19). Grace the instrument. Grace the melody. Christ the Instrumentalist!

### **3. To Whom to sing**

Each to his own soul (cf. Psalm 103:1–2, 22). And it is really Christ, who uses you to do so!

Each to one another's souls. And it is really Christ, who uses you to do so!

Each to the Lord. And it is really Christ, who uses you to do so!

## **Conclusion**

**Herein is Christ glorified:** He sings through us and plays on our hearts, as accompaniment, the tune of His own grace.

**Herein is God glorified:** as He displays His Son, and the gospel of His Son, in the people of His Son, God's justice and holiness and goodness and faithfulness and truth are all magnified!

Indeed, as Christ makes His Word to dwell in us richly in biblical congregational singing, it is like everything else that He has done for believers from electing us from all eternity even until this work of transforming us is completed in the resurrection: it is all to the praise of His glorious grace!