

“Living For Jesus”
Colossians 3:15-17

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Colossians 3 - Where We've Been Learning About:
 - What Happens In The Life Of A Christian:
 - When Jesus Christ:
 - Truly Has The Preeminence!
 - When He Really Is Number One!
2. Not Only Will He Enable You:
 - To “Put Off” Those Things:
 - That Made You Look:
 - More & More - Like The World!
 - That “Old Man” That Is Full Of:
 - 3:8-9 - Anger & Wrath & Malice & Blasphemy & Filthy Communication & Lying!
3. But - He Will Also Enable You:
 - To “Put On” Those Things:
 - That Will Make You Look:
 - More & More - Like Him! Like Jesus Christ!
 - With That “New Man” That Is Full Of:
 - The Character, The Conduct, And The Charity Of Christ Himself!
 - Which Is What We Looked At Last Week In 3:12-14!
4. Well - This Morning:
 - In The Next Three Verses - 3:15-17:
 - We Will Find Three Gifts / Three Helps:
 - That Will Help You To:
 - Keep “Putting On” That New Man!
 - The Gifts Of:
 - A New Peace!
 - A New Promise!
 - And A New Principle!
 - And - When You Apply These Helps:
 - In Your Daily Walk With The Lord:
 - You *Will* Take On More & More Of The Nature & Image Of Jesus Himself!
 - 3:12-14 - “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye 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 whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
 - So - This Morning - As You Continue To:
 - “Put On” The New Man - You Also:

* Need To – First Of All – Live According To:

1. ***The Great Peace Of A Christian:***
 - Which Is The “Peace Of God!”
 - 3:15 - “And Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful!”
 - As You Are Striving To “Put On” & To Follow The:
 - Character & Conduct & Charity Of The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - God Has Already Provided Something Very Special That Will Help Direct You To Make The Right Decisions & Choices!
 - And That Is:
 - His Peace! The “Peace Of God!”
 - And There Are Some Important Things That You Need To Remember About This Peace! First - Need To Remember:
 - The Foundation Of This Peace!
 - **IE:** Peace Is Something That The World Has Often Wanted & Even Attempted - But Has Rarely

- Achieved! We See Very Little Peace In The World Today!
 - And That Is Because – Peace – Real, Lasting Peace – Is Elusive Apart From God And His Gospel!
 - But - The Peace That The World Needs / We Need Is Really A 3-Fold Peace!
- It Is An Upper Peace!
 - Or - Peace With God! This Is The Primary Peace That You Need!
 - The Peace & Reconciliation That Is Provided Through Christ!
 - Romans 5:1 - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!” - But Also:
- It Is An Inner Peace!
 - Or - Peace Within Your Hearts! Which Can Only Come From God!
 - This Peace Will Soothe / Subdue Your Guilt & Shame!
 - 3:15 - “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts!” - But Also:
- It Is An Outer Peace!
 - Or - Peace With Others! The Potential For This Peace Can Only Come Through God / Gospel!
 - Because It Promotes The Forbearance / Forgiveness That We Are To Have As Found In 3:13!
 - Romans 14:19 - “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another!”
- All Three Aspects Of Peace Can Only Be Made Possible Through Christ:
 - Through The Application Of The Gospel To Our Hearts By Faith!
 - Do You Have This Peace? This Is Where It Starts!
 - Jesus Himself Promises This Peace To All Who Come To Him & Receive Him As Their Savior By Faith!
 - John 14:27 - “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!”
 - But - Once You Possess This Peace - You Then Need To Remember:
- The Function Of This Peace!
 - According To 3:15:
 - We Are To “Let The Peace Of God Rule!”
 - **IE:** The Word For “Rule” In This Verse Is Used Only Here In The NT - But In Other Greek Literature - It Was Used Of Someone Who Was An Umpire / Referee At A Game Or Competition! The Referee Was The One Who Would “Rule” Over The Game - Direct / Decide / Give The Award To The Winner Of The Game!
 - So - Even Though Our Lives Are Not A Game - God Has Given Us A “Referee” - His Own Peace - To Help Direct Us / Help Us Decide / And Provide The Award Of Peace In Our Hearts!
 - So Now - We Need To Let The Peace Of God Do Its Job! How?
- By Following The Direction Of God’s Peace!
 - According To 3:15 - We Are To “Let The Peace Of God Rule” Where?
 - “In Your Hearts!”
 - It Is The Peace of God & The Spirit Of God:
 - At Work In Your “Heart” - That Will Guide / Direct You In Your Life & Walk With God!
 - God’s Peace Will Help You Know What Preserves Peace!
 - In Your Heart!
 - Love / Faith / Hope / Truth / Righteousness / Obedience To God!
 - God’s Peace Will Help You Know What Prevents Peace!
 - In Your Heart!
 - The Vices / Anger / Wrath / Disobedience!
 - God’s Peace Will Help You Know What Provides Peace!
 - In Your Heart!
 - Christ & His Blood / Forgiveness / Available Through Prayer & Confession To God!
- So - “Let The Peace Of God Rule In Your Hearts!”
 - Let God’s Peace Rule / Preside / Referee Over Your Decisions & Choices!
 - But You Also Need To Remember:
- The Fellowship Of This Peace:
 - 3:15 - “To The Which Also Ye Are Called In One Body!”
 - This Means That If Jesus Is Your Savior:

- Then - You Are A Member Of His Body - Of His Church!
- And - Just As Your “Body”:

 - Lives / Works / Is At Peace With Itself - Working In Harmony Together, The Way It Was Designed To!
 - So – You Are Called To Work In Harmony Together With The Other Members Of Christ’s Body As Well!
 - Gill - “It Is Unnatural For Members Of The Same Body To Quarrel With Each Other!”

- So - “Let The Peace Of God Rule In Your Hearts!”

 - Because Of The Fellowship / Peace That God Has Offered / Provided To You!
 - How Will You Know If You Are? If It Is?
 - Well - You Need To Also Remember:

- The Fruit Of This Peace:

 - 3:15 - “And Be Ye Thankful!”

 - So - As An Expression And Evidence Of Your Peace From God:
 - “Be Ye Thankful!”

 - I Believe That This “Thankfulness”:

 - Will Be The Result Of Letting The Peace Of God Rule In Your Hearts!
 - Therefore - “Thankfulness” Will Show You Whether Or Not 3:15 Is True In Your Life!

 - Are You Thankful?

 - Yes - Then You Are Letting Your Heart / Life Be Directed By The Peace Of God!
 - No - Then Something Else Is The Umpire / Referee Of Your Life! And You Are Probably Not At Peace!
 - With God! Within Your Heart! With Others!

 - Do You Have A Spirit Of Thankfulness?

 - Thinking Of What Others Do For You?
 - Telling Of What Others Do For You?
 - Thanking Those Others Who Do Things For You?

 - Are You In A State Of Thankfulness?

 - Is This Your Common Way Of Living?
 - Not Just A Few Times - But A Habit Of It?

 - A Thankful Spirit Should Be The Normal State:

 - Of Your Existence! “Be Ye Thankful!”
 - This Is How You Can Know:
 - If You Are Letting The “Peace Of God Rule In Your Heart?”

- You Need To Live According To:

 - This Great Peace:

 - As A Christian!
 - “Let The Peace Of God Rule In Your Heart!”
 - But You Also:

* Need To Live According To:

2. ***The Great Promises Of A Christian:***

- Which Is “The Word Of Christ” - As We Are Told In:

 - 3:16 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!”

 - In This Verse - We Discover The Primary Source:

 - For All Of The Christ-Like Virtues:
 - That We Are To “Put On!”
 - The “Word Of Christ!”

- Now - Just What Is This “Word Of Christ”?

 - It Is Not Primarily The Words **From** Christ!

 - As He Spoke Them Personally! At The Time Paul Is Writing This Letter, The Gospels & The New Testament As A Whole Is Relatively Unknown!

 - But It Is Primarily The Words **About** Christ!

 - The Message **About** Him!
 - What We Call The Gospel – The Good News Of Jesus Christ!

- And This Word Is Not Just Found In The New Testament!

 - It Is Found All Throughout The Old Testament As Well!
 - Find Many Promises Of Christ!

- Find Many Prophecies About Christ!
- Find The Real Purpose Of Christ!
- Even Jesus Said - John 5:39 - "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me!"
 - He Was Referring To The OT Scriptures!
- And So - The "Word Of Christ":
 - Is Nothing Less Than The Gospel!
 - And We Find In This Verse - The Incredible Value Of The Gospel In The Life Of Those Who Believe! We Find:
- The Wealth Of The Word Of Christ!
 - **IE:** The Miners Who Searched For Gold In The Old West - Did Not Know How Much Gold There Was - Or Even - Where The Gold Was - They Were Speculators!
 - **Christians Are Not Speculators!** We Know What The Treasure Is / Where The Treasure Is / And Even How To Get The Treasure!
 - So - Paul Tell Us To:
 - Let The Treasure Dwell In You!
 - Let The Word Of Christ Dwell In You!
 - This Is In The Form Of A Command!
 - And - You Need To Let It Dwell In You: "Richly!"
 - Because It Can!
 - There Is No Such Thing As Too Much Of The Word Of Christ!
 - **IE:** Like Certain Kinds Of Food - Can't Get Enough!
 - Paul's Desire Is For You To Be Full / Filled!
 - Colossians 1:9 - "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled** with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding!"
 - And The Deeper You Go – The More You Will Know – That There Is Even More Room To Grow!
 - So - Keep Digging!
 - Gill - "It Is A Rich Treasure, An Invaluable Mine Of Precious Truths!"
 - So - Be Full Of The Word Of Christ!
 - Because - There Is Great Wealth To Be Found There! But Also Because Of:
- The Wisdom From The Word Of Christ!
 - **IE:** Some Treasure Hunters - When They Finally Find What They Have Been Looking For - Become Hoarders Of It! And The Treasure Ends Up Doing Them Very Little Good!
 - In Fact, It Robs Them Of Their Joy & Enjoyment Of It!
 - Always Protective & Even Paranoid!
 - The Treasure Of The Gospel – The Word Of Christ:
 - Is Not Meant To Be Hoarded, But To Be Used!
 - And That's Why Paul Continues In 3:16 By Saying - "In All Wisdom, Teaching And Admonishing One Another!"
 - This Means That:
 - There Is Enough Of This Treasure For Everyone!
 - So - You Need To Continue To:
 - Search For This Wisdom!
 - In The Gospel! In The Bible! "In All Wisdom!"
 - What Is Wisdom?
 - The Application Of Truth!
 - How Will You Know If / When You Have It?
 - It Will Be Evident:
 - In Your Deliberations - What You Think About!
 - In Your Desires - What You Feel & Want!
 - In Your Decisions - What You Chose!
 - In Your Discussions - What You Talk About!
 - And - What Should You Do With It When You Find God's Wisdom?
 - Don't Hoard This Treasure!
 - No - There Are 2 More Things That You Need To Do With This Wisdom From The Word Of Christ! You Need To:
 - Share This Wisdom!

- “Teaching!”
 - This Means That You Share With Others What You Have Learned!
- Not Just Pastors / Teachers!
 - But Every Christian!
 - But Then - You Also Need To:
- Stir Others Up With This Wisdom!
 - “Admonishing!”
 - This Is One Of The Reasons Paul Wrote Colossians! See 1:28 - “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!”
 - This Means That We Must Stir “One Another” Up With The Wisdom & The Knowledge Of Christ, So That We May All Become “Perfect In Christ Jesus” More & More!
 - This Is The Responsibility Of Us All!
 - Are You Searching For This Wisdom?
 - Are You Sharing This Wisdom?
 - Are You Stirring Up With This Wisdom?
 - But Then - We Also Find In This Verse:
- The Worship Through The Word Of Christ!
 - **IE:** Treasure Is Not Only Meant To Be Shared - But It Is Also Meant To Be Used!
 - What Makes Gold So Valuable?
 - Not Just Because It Is Rare!
 - But Also Because Of Its Use!
 - It Is Used:
 - For Jewelry - Because Of Its Beauty!
 - For Protection - Because It Does Not Corrode!
 - For Priceless Objects - Cups / Plates - Because Of Its Ability To Be Molded & Formed!
 - As An Electrical Conductor! Many Uses!
 - One Of The Best & Most Beautiful Uses Of The Gospel – The Word Of Christ – Is To Return It To The One Who Gave It To Us!
 - In The Form Of Worship!
 - 3:16 - “In Psalms And Hymns And Spiritual Songs, Singing With Grace In Your Hearts To The Lord!”
 - Here - We Find - The Songs Of Our Worship!
 - “In Psalms & Hymns & Spiritual Songs!”
 - When The Gospel Enters A Christian’s Heart:
 - They Will Sing!
 - And The Songs We Sing - Will Be Different Than The Songs That The World Sings!
 - 3 Different Kinds Of Songs - Designed Especially For Christians Who Want To Respond To The Word Of Christ!
 - Psalms!
 - Songs With The Content Of Scripture!
 - Especially From The Book Of Psalms Themselves!
 - Because Psalms - Are A part Of The Word Of Christ! Many Are About Christ Himself!
 - Luke 24:44 - “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me!”
 - Hymns!
 - Songs That Are Sung In The Honor Of God & In Praise To God!
 - A Song That Is A Response To What We Learn About God / Christ From The Word Of Christ!
 - Spiritual Songs!
 - Any Song That Is Sung That Is Spiritual In Its Content!
 - It Comes From A Mind / Heart That Has Been Influenced By The Spirit Of God Through The Word Of God! Spiritual In Character / Content / Purpose!
 - All Of Our Songs Need To Be Based On The Word Of Christ!
- We Also Find Here - The Sense Of Our Worship!
 - “Singing With Grace In Your Hearts!”
 - This Is How We Are To Sing!
 - Our Hearts Need To Be Filled With Thankfulness & Gratitude!

- And Our Voices Need To Express Our Hearts!
 - Not Just Saying The Words Of A Song – But Meaning Them!
- This Is Why We Need To Sing! As A Church! In Our Church!
 - When You Do - It Worships God!
 - When You Do - It Encourages Others!
 - When You Do - It Blesses Your Own Soul!
- We Also Find Here - The Spirit Of Our Worship!
 - “Singing With Grace In Your Hearts To The Lord!”
 - “The Lord” - Is Our Primary Audience!
 - When We Worship & When We Sing!
 - Jesus Is Who We Are Singing To! So Sing!
 - Jesus Is What We Are Singing For! So Sing!
 - How You Sing:
 - Will Reflect & Reveal What The Gospel Has Done In Your Heart!
 - Gill - “The End In View Should Be The Glory Of God!”
 - Your Songs / Singing - Not About You!
 - Your Songs / Singing - Not Even For You!
- Oh, How We Need To Live According To:
 - This Great Promise:
 - As A Christian!
 - And Be Full Of The Word Of Christ!
 - But You Also:

* Need To Live According To:

3. ***The Great Principle Of A Christian***

- Which Is This - 3:17 - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
 - In This Verse - We Find:
 - The Attitudes That We Have Already Looked At:
 - Now Turning To Action!
 - **IE:** Several Years Ago: There Was A Fad Among Christians, Where They Would Wear Anything That Had The 4 Letters: WWJD! Shirts / Hats / Rubber Bracelets / Etc! Of Course Those 4 Letters Had A Special Meaning: What Would Jesus Do!
 - Where Did This Come From? A Little Book, Written By Charles Sheldon In 1897, Titled: “In His Steps!” Where In A Little Church In A Little Town, A Group Of Christians Pledged To Spend An Entire Year Of Their Lives To Ask That One Question – “What Would Jesus Do” – Whenever They Had A Decision / Choice To Make! As You Read The Book - The Changes Made In Those Christian’s Lives Were Remarkable!
 - That Was Just In A Book! But – What Would It Really Be Like / Really Look Like If You Were To Live This Way In Your Own Life Today?
 - What Would It Be Like In Your:
 - Community / Church / Family / Own Life!
 - Possibly The Closest Thing To The Slogan – WWJD – To Be Found In The Bible Is Right Here In Colossians 3:17!
 - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
 - But This Is No Mere Slogan!
 - This Is The Inspired Word Of God!
 - This Has Far More Meaning / Importance / Usefulness!
 - Than A Slogan Made By A Man!
 - Albert Barnes Once Wrote:
 - “What a change would it make in the world if this rule were everywhere followed! How differently would even professing Christians live! How many of their plans would they be constrained at once to abandon! And what a mighty revolution would it at once make on earth, should all the actions of men begin to be performed to promote the glory of God!”
 - “What A Change!” – He Says:
 - As You Seek & Strive To Serve The Lord! You Can See Here:
- The Content Of Your Service:

- 3:17 - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all!”
 - It Needs To Be Comprehensive & It Needs To Be Complete!
 - This Is Why Paul Uses The Term:
- “Whatsoever!”
 - This It Includes Anything & Everything That You Think & Say & Do!
- So - When It Comes To *All* Of Your Words & *All* Of Your Works:
 - You Need To Make Sure That They Are Being Done *All* In The Service Of Jesus Christ / And For His Glory!
- What A Change There Would Be!
 - In Your Life / Family / Church / Workplace / Community!
 - If You Remembered That Everything You Do Can & Must Be Done In Service To The Lord! Also See:
- The Character Of Your Service:
 - 3:17 - “Do All In The Name Of The Lord Jesus!”
 - This Means That All Of Your Words & All Of Your Works Need To Be *Christ-Like!*
 - This Is To Be The Ruling Principle For Your Life As A Christian!
 - John Eadie - “Not Simply In Religious Service, But In The Business Of Daily Life! Art, Science, Literature, Politics And Business, Should Be All Baptized In The Spirit Of Christ!”
 - You Need To Serve Christ In Every Part Of Your Life – And Be Committed To Him!
 - Not Just On Sunday, But On Everyday!
 - Not Just In Attitude / But In Actions!
 - What A Change There Would Be!
 - In Your Life / Family / Church / Workplace / Community!
 - If You Remembered That You Need To Live Your Life:
 - For Jesus Christ! & Through Jesus Christ! Also See:
- The Cause Of Your Service:
 - 3:17 - “Giving Thanks To God And The Father By Him!”
 - All You Do Should Be Consecrated To The Lord:
 - Through Devotion & Worship!
 - It All Needs To Be:
 - From The Heart!
 - “Giving Thanks!”
 - You Need To Have A Thankful / Grateful Heart!
 - All The Time!
 - And For All Things!
 - Ephesians 5:20 - “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - With Honor!
 - “To God And The Father!”
 - Your Thankfulness & Worship:
 - Is To Be Directed To God!
 - He Deserves Your Worship / Praise / Giving Of Thanks!
 - Even As Paul Thanked Our “God & Father” - Back In 1:3 - “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you!”
 - With Hope!
 - “By Him!”
 - You Are Only Able To Give God The Proper Worship / Thanksgiving He Deserves & Is Due!
 - Because Of Jesus Christ, His Son!
 - Jesus Christ Is Your Main Reason To Be Thankful!
 - And - If Your Mind Is Full Of Christ:
 - Then Your Heart Will Be Full Of Gratitude For Christ!
 - What A Change There Would Be!
 - In Your Life / Family / Church / Workplace / Community!
 - If You Remember To Be Thankful!
 - And Live A Life Of Worship To Christ!

Conclusion:

1. Is This How Your Life Is Being Lived?
 - Is Your Life A Life Of Service To The Lord?
 - Every Day & All Day!
 - In Every Thing & All Things!
 - In Attitude & In Action!
 - In Words & In Deeds / Works!
2. What A Change There Would Be!
 - If You Lived Your Life:
 - Continually - According To:
 - The Peace Of God!
 - The Word Of Christ!
 - The Name Of The Lord Jesus!
 - Always - "Giving Thanks To God And The Father By Him!"
 - Won't You Live:
 - Your Life - This Way:
 - Today?

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