

Colossians 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (ho logos tou Christou enoikeitō en hymin plousiōs, ὁ λόγος τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐνοικεῖτω ἐν ὑμῖν πλουσίως) commands making Scripture central to Christian life. "Dwell richly" indicates abundant, saturating presence—not occasional Scripture reading but continuous engagement transforming mind and life.

This Scripture-saturation produces community effects: "teaching and admonishing one another" (didaskontes kai nouthetountes heautous, διδάσκοντες καὶ νουθετοῦντες ἑαυτούς)—mutual instruction and correction. The medium: "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" encompassing various musical forms. "Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (en tē chariti adontes en tais kardiais ὑμῶν τῷ θεῷ) indicates music's dual direction: vertical (to God) and horizontal (mutual edification).

Historical Context

Early Christianity was singing movement—hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs featured prominently in worship and daily life. Some NT portions may be early hymns (Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-20). Music embedded theology in memory, making truth accessible to illiterate believers and creating corporate worship experience. Pagan critics noted Christian singing even noted by pagan critics. This singing culture sustained believers through persecution and transmitted faith across generations.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How richly does Christ's word dwell in you—occasional interaction or saturating abundance?
2. How do you use music for mutual teaching and admonition versus mere entertainment?
3. What practical steps would fill your mind and heart more richly with Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	λόγος	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	ἐνοικεῖτω	ἐν	ὑμῖν	πλουσίως
G3588	the word	G3588	of Christ	Let	in	you	richly
	G3056		G5547	G1774	G1722	G5213	G4146
ἐν	πάσῃ	σοφίᾳ	διδάσκοντες	καὶ	νουθετοῦντες	ἑαυτοὺς	
in	all	wisdom	teaching	and	admonishing	one another	
G1722	G3956	G4678	G1321	G2532	G3560	G1438	
ψαλμοῖς	καὶ	ὑμνοῖς	καὶ	ὠδαῖς	πνευματικαῖς	ἐν	χάρτι
psalms	and	hymns	and	songs	spiritual	in	grace
G5568	G2532	G5215	G2532	G5603	G4152	G1722	G5485
ᾄδοντες	ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	ὑμῶν	τῷ	Κυρίῳ	
singing	in	G3588	hearts	your	G3588	to the Lord	
G103	G1722		G2588	G5216		G2962	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:11 (Word): Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Ephesians 5:19 (Spirit): Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

John 15:7 (Word): If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Romans 10:17 (Word): So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 John 2:24 (Parallel theme): Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

Jeremiah 15:16 (Word): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Ephesians 1:17 (Spirit): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Job 23:12 (Word): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

James 3:17 (Grace): But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2 John 1:2 (Parallel theme): For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

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