

# Colossians: Jesus Our All In All

## Colossians 3:5-17

### Colossians 3:5

*(KJV) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

*(NIV) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

Well, as we often ask in Biblical study, what is the *therefore there for*? In this case, Paul wants the Colossian believers to know that their identity and focus in Christ through the Holy Spirit enables them to *mortify* or *put to death* the deadly sins that are part of their earthly nature. We should never enter into our sin battles wielding carnal weapons:

### 2Corinthians 10:3-6

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Once we understand who we are in Christ, and that our obedience is an act of love towards our Lord, we cease to fight the law in our flesh and fail. Now when we obey, it is evidence that we are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. We are demonstrating our love to Him.

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

### 2Peter 3:18

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

The ability to say “yes” to Jesus comes from the Holy Spirit within us. Saying *no* to sin is also made possible through the Holy Spirit. Interesting then that our practical righteousness grows as we grow in our relationship with God our Father, as we experience His goodness moment by moment:

### Titus 2:11-12

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Beloved, we have truly been called out of the world system to live unto God and His holiness. It is God alone Who develops holiness in His children as they learn to trust and obey His Word. This is the work of sanctification:

## **SANCTIFICATION**, n. [See Sanctify.]

1. The act of making holy. In an evangelical sense, the act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world, and exalted to a supreme love to God. God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. (2 Th 2; 1 Pet 1)

2. The act of consecrating or of setting apart for a sacred purpose; consecration.

In Colossians 3:5, Paul specifically names sins that are part of our earthly nature, sins that are dirty, shameful, and that we understandably want to hide away. However there is no hiding sin from God:

### **Hebrews 4:13**

*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What areas of besetting sin in your life have you not presented to the Lord - for repentance, forgiveness, and ultimate victory?

Note: well, believer, that God is not some cosmic killjoy bent on ruining our fun here on earth. God knows about and grieves over all our sin and how it destroys us and distances us from Him. How he desires that we discover the joy of our salvation through obedience! How he desires that we partake of His holiness:

### **1Peter 1:15-16**

*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Alongside profane sexual sins, Paul mentions greed which the Bible defines as idolatry. These are sins of self, and of constantly seeking to get what we want when we want it by our own means, often by *any* means. This is rebellion against God - trusting in ourselves and our own resources to fulfill our needs. But if God is truly a perfect Father to us, we can ask and trust that He will take care of all our needs:

### **Luke 12:22-31**

*And he said unto his disciples, therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

When we became born-again babes in Christ, God immediately provided the Holy Spirit to help us wield His Word as a mighty sword. This two-edged sword of God's Word is an effective weapon in sin battles as we declare to our flesh and to our enemy: *I am dead to that!*

### **Romans 6:11-12**

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

Oh dear Christian, how I grieve over my sin, and how I wish I would have heeded God's Word a long time ago, and could have saved myself and the Holy Spirit much grief!

### **Ephesians 4:30**

*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

### **Colossians 3:6**

*(KJV) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:  
(NIV) Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

\*STUDY POINT: Find passages of Scripture in the Old and New Testament where you see the partial, perfect and purposeful wrath of God released? How do these passages demonstrate God's character? How do these passages change your perspective of God?

No one has yet experienced the full wrath of God. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8) and continues to hold back the wrath of God. While many of us would like to see the wrath and judgment of God exacted on sinful humankind *right now*, God is long suffering and merciful, and does not delight in the destruction of precious souls.

### **2Peter 3:9**

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

There is a sense in which God gives us what we want beyond this life. If a person lives their whole life in constant rebellion against God, why would they then want to spend eternity with Him in heaven? So God gives the unrepentant what they want, though it grieves him deeply. Mark this, beloved: God presents the perfect balance of mercy and judgment in His Gospel. Today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). We can choose. However, one option that is not available for each of us is to escape God's judgment:

### **Hebrews 9:27-28**

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

Judgment is coming to the children of disobedience. Grace is nearing its end. Tell the world.

## **Colossians 3:7**

*(KJV) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*

*(NIV) You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.*

Paul does not sugar-coat the fact that the Colossian believers had a sinful past life. We all did. We recall Paul's strong exhortation to the Corinthians:

### **1Corinthians 5:1-13**

*It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

The fact that such sin occurred in God's church in Biblical times indicates to us today that Jesus is not done refining us into perfect holiness. This process will not be complete until He calls us home:

### **Philippians 1:6**

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

So, the church is a messy place! We are all at varying degrees of spiritual maturity, which God is accomplishing in us as we daily submit to Him:

### **2Peter 1:3-10**

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness*

*brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

We ought not judge babes in Christ in our church families, but rather be a part of God's growing and nurturing process in them:

**Romans 15:1-2**

*We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*

We would do well, even while we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12), to rejoice in the truth of God's Word:

**2Corinthians 5:17**

*Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

**Colossians 1:13-14**

*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Hallelujah!

**Colossians 3:8**

*(KJV) But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

*(NIV) But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Recall a time when you said something to someone in the Body of Christ out of the sinful emotions listed above. How did you repent and restore the damage done by your words, or did you?

Paul here addresses relationships in the Christian community and how our sinful hearts find expression through our attitudes and spoken words.

**Luke 6:45**

*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

Beloved, how then do we hide the hideous evil in our hearts that can cause great harm in our relationships at home and in our church families? There is no hiding the depths of our hearts from God:

**Hebrews 4:12-13**

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

*With whom we have to do. To Whom we are accountable! God, of course sees and knows all. He understands our hopeless sin nature apart from Him and He invites us to come and have our hearts daily cleansed at throne of grace through the blood of His Son Jesus.*

**Psalm 51:10-13**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

**Psalm 139:23-24**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Psalm 19:12-14**

*Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

So, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us humble ourselves every day at the feet of Jesus and allow Him to investigate our hearts and cleanse us from all unrighteousness:

**Matthew 6:6**

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

**1John 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

While God is still working on our heart issues that lead to anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language, we are exhorted by Paul to put off these sins and to put on Christ. Sometimes we just need to stop up the hurtful words that well up from our hearts:

**Proverbs 10:19**

*In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.*

**Psalm 141:3** *Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

### **Romans 13:13-14**

*Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.*

### **Colossians 3:9**

*(KJV) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

*(NIV) Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices*

The spirit of falsehood is alive and well through the false prophets Paul is warning about.

They are the deceptive offspring of the Father of Lies, Satan. They are children of the night:

### **1Thessalonians 5:4-8**

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

Praise God that we as Jesus followers are children of the day, walking in the light as He is in the light!

### **1John 1:5-10**

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

The modus operandi of the false Gnostic teachers is the same as the Evil One, namely, to sin and hide - to put forth falsehood and hide. If this behaviour sounds familiar, it should!

### **Genesis 3:1-13**

*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the*

*LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

So, let's study this out. Satan tempted Eve and hid. Adam and Eve were deceived, then sinned and hid. Pretty simple, right? We sin and hide like the Father of Lies! And right from the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and throughout the centuries, our sin nature has been pre-determined and predictable by this pattern. The defining difference, however, for born-again children of God is that there is no darkness in our Father (1 John 1:5) and when we walk with Him, we walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). The context of 1 John is Jesus followers seeking to walk in the truth amidst a culture of deception and false prophets. John exhorts his sheep not to hide their sin, but rather bring it into the light where Jesus can wash it all away:

### **1John 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

In fact, let's allow the light of Christ to shine on *all* falsehood:

### **Ephesians 5:11-12**

*Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

*Lie not*, Paul says.

### **Colossians 3:10**

*(KJV) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

*(NIV) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: As you get dressed for your day today, imagine putting on Jesus as a covering - your new identity in Jesus Christ for all to see! What difference will this make to your witness and your walk today?

Put on Jesus Christ, dear Christian!

### **Romans 13:14**

*Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.*



Oh, to be clothed, to be covered with Jesus. Paul exhorts the Colossian believers to not only believe the truth of who they are now in Christ, but to take action steps that will yield great fruit for the Lord. *Put off. Put on. Amen!*

To put on Jesus, we will:

*Stay in prayer.*

**1Thessalonians 5:17** *Pray without ceasing.*

*Stay in God's Word.*

**James 1:25**

*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

*Stay in relationship.*

**John 15:10**

*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

*Stay in obedience.*

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

How glorious that we can now live out our true identity in Christ, reflecting the image of God in which we were made (Genesis 1:27) through the power of the Holy Spirit! Beloved, how the world needs to see Jesus living in us and through us:

**Galatians 2:20**

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Colossians 3:11**

**(KJV)** *Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

**(NIV)** *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

Paul, rather than bemoaning the cultural and religious differences between his beloved spiritual children, makes it a point of rejoicing! The diversity of the Body of Christ expresses God's comprehensive creative power. And under the banner of Jesus, everyone has a unique identity and place in His household. Hallelujah!

Jesus is our all in all. Paul says that *Christ is all*:

**2Peter 1:3**

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

Not one thing missing. Oh, but there's more. *Christ is in all:*

### **Colossians 1:26-27**

*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

### **Colossians 3:12**

*(KJV) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

*(NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

It is not a self-improvement program that Paul is suggesting here. This is the fruit borne out of a believer in Jesus who is intimately connected to the Source of everything good:

### **James 1:17-18**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

We look to Jesus, don't we?

### **Hebrews 12:2**

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### **2Corinthians 3:18**

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

As we look to His Son He changes us throughout our walk with Him, and cultivates the good fruit listed in Colossians 3:12. This is for the blessing and wonder of all those in our sphere of influence, and all to the Father's glory!

### **Colossians 3:13**

*(KJV) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

*(NIV) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Here again Paul exhorts the Colossian believers to keep short accounts with one another, and with the Lord. Any holding out on forgiveness can cause our hearts to become hard, and our relationship to Jesus to become distant. This is because God is all about forgiveness:

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Matthew 5:23-24**

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*

Beloved in Christ, heed what God is saying here. Reconciliation requires humility. It requires that we remember all of what Jesus has done for us. Therefore, watch your heart:

**Proverbs 4:23** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

**Hebrews 3:13**

*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

Living in Christian community in a way that pleases God is not possible apart from us exhorting one another in our walk. I need you. You need me.

**James 5:16**

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

**Colossians 3:14**

**(KJV)** *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

**(NIV)** *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

At the top of the list here Paul names love as the unifier, the glue that holds all of who Christ is together in community. If your church is imperfect, and it is, it would be better to err on the side of love - because God is love:

**1John 4:7-12**

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

Paul approves and applauds the love that the Colossians have for one another because the false prophets knew nothing of this agape love in Christ; indeed they know nothing of loving community:

### **1John 2:19**

*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

False teachers, preachers, and prophets all share one evil character trait: *self*. While they may add Jesus' name to each of their false teachings, the character of Christ is not evident in their lives - only self-righteousness, self-promotion, and self-gain. Beloved, beware!

### **Colossians 3:15**

*(KJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

*(NIV) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

One more grievous trait of the false teachers in the Colossian church was the confusion and chaos borne of the conflicting doctrines and secret knowledge infiltrating the hearts of the faithful. Falsehood divides churches! Have you experienced this? Beloved, I hope you are never a part of sowing discord among the brethren - God hates it!

### **Proverbs 6:19**

*A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

Paul reminds these believers that in Christ there is peace through the Holy Spirit that rules over conflicting emotions and upheaval. This peace unifies. This peace has power! Jesus not only protects our hearts from becoming troubled, He has overcome the deception and confusion of the world from which the false prophets culled their message - a message that was carnal and caused many to abandon the Gospel:

### **John 16:32-33**

*Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

### **Colossians 3:16**

*(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.*

*(NIV) Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

Oh, God in heaven, that Your Word would be more than *head knowledge*, but would be *heart reality*!

**Romans 12:2**

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Paul reminds the Colossian believers here to not only take in the Word of God for their own edification - although that is so important - but also to share it one to another and allow it to fill their hearts to overflow with love, hope, gratitude, and *praise!* Allowing His Word to dwell in us richly means to set aside significant time to let the Holy Spirit teach us, wash us, and encourage us day and night as we meditate on Holy Scripture (Psalm 1:2).

**Colossians 3:17**

*(KJV) 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.*

*(NIV) And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

This verse is a wonderful conclusion to a wonderful chapter of the Bible. We can give the whole of our lives, beyond just Sunday, to the Lord. We can devote our activities small and great, our time, our thoughts, our speech, our rest, and our very hearts to Him 24/7!

**Romans 12:1**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

- Reverend Darren McClelland