

# The MYSTERY

Hidden for Ages

## Is Now REVEALED

*A Study of the Book of Colossians*

LESSON 19

This Week's Passage:

### **Colossians 3:15-17**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

### **Memory Verse: Colossians 3:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

### **Day One:**

**Read Colossians 3 and then reread verses 12-15.**

In Colossians 3:12-14, Paul laid out the virtues – the highest one being love – that believers were to “put on” and live out in relationship to one another. The exercise of these virtues was designed to produce unity in the body.

1. This week's passage continues this theme. What is Paul's reasoning behind his exhortation for believers to “Let the peace of Christ dwell in [their] hearts”? (v. 15b)
2. Once again Paul uses the image of the body to represent the community of believers.
  - a. How does this image help us understand the need for peace among believers? (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27)
  - b. What is the source of our peace with one another? (Col. 1:19-22; Eph. 2:13-18)

Christ has secured for us peace *with* God. This peace is an unchangeable standing we have with God: we were his enemies but now we have been reconciled with him (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21–22). On the other hand, the peace *of* God is something we experience as we trust him with every aspect of our lives.

3. How do you “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (v. 15)? (Is. 26:3; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:6–7; Rom. 15:13)
4. How would letting the peace of Christ rule in your heart affect the way you treat other people in the body?
5. How would the body as a whole be affected if each individual member allowed Christ to rule in his or her heart?

## **Day Two: Read Colossians 3:15–17.**

6. Paul ends verse 15 by once again by bringing up his familiar theme of thankfulness. What might Paul have in mind when he tells the Colossians to be thankful?
7. Take some time to jot down and thank God for the things you have that cannot be taken away or touched by this world.

### Day Three: Read Colossians 3:15–17.

8. What does Paul mean practically when he tells the Colossians to “Let the message of Christ dwell in [them] richly” (v. 16)? (Ps. 1:2; 119:11–20)

The “message of Christ” refers not only to the actual words Jesus spoke, but more widely to “the totality of biblical revelation concerning Jesus: who he is, his mission, his life, his redemptive work, his character and will and ways.”<sup>1</sup>

9. Paul expects the Colossian believers to teach and admonish (“to caution or reprove gently”<sup>2</sup>) one another with all wisdom (v. 16) as a means of building up the body.
- How does “let[ting] the message of Christ dwell among you richly” (v. 16) enable believers to teach and admonish one another wisely?
  - How do wise teaching and admonishing among believers foster unity and peace in the body? (Eph. 4:15–16)

### Day Four: Read Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19.

10. While “psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit” (v. 16) may have different forms, their content is similar: all of them express truths about God’s character and works, and serve to focus our attention and worship on him. So, while Paul is not necessarily saying that we should be singing to one another, he is saying something about the *content* of our conversation.

What would it look like, then, for you to “teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit” (v. 16)?

11. Reread verses 15 and 16. Take a moment to envision the kind of Christian community Paul describes.
- What characterizes this community?
  - Pray for God to work this more and more in you and the believers around you.

### **Day Five: Read Colossians 3:15-17.**

12. What two things does Paul say should characterize all you do and say as a believer? (v. 17)
13. What would it mean for you to do everything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (v. 17)?

Pray and ask God to enable you to live out your life in this way and to be thankful.



Reminder: Remember to read the entire book of Colossians this week.

<sup>1</sup> Sam Storms, *The Hope of Glory: 100 Daily Meditations on Colossians* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2007), 278-279.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eliyah.com/cgi-bin/strongs.cgi?file=greeklexicon&isindex=admonish>