



God's Pervading Word Among His People

Colossians 3:16-17

Sermon Outline

1. The Word Planted within
"let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"
2. The Word Propogated among Others
"teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom"
3. The Word Praised back to God
"singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God"
4. The Word (and Worship) Permeating All of Life
"whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks..."

Introduction

This week's text speaks to God's Word to be delighted in by his people. Leaders, let me challenge you to read Psalm 119 (it's a long one), and challenge members of your CG to read it as well and come to the study prepared to delight *together* (David's delight is more individual here) in God's Word. This would be an excellent opportunity to pray the Scriptures¹ together before, during, and/or after specific discussion questions.

This week's text:

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Discussion 1: In you...

- *Is this a call to personal transformation or community?*

¹ We've talked about this before. It is not just "reading in prayer" but personalizing it. For example in Psa 119:174 David says "I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight" might sound like "... we long for your salvation (or return) and grant that we delight in your Word..."

[Relate/parallel this with v15. This is clearly in the context of one-anothering. Of course this has personal application, but this “you” is again plural. So what?]

Read or pray together

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:1-8** Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! ² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, ³ who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! ⁴ You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. ⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. ⁸ I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

- ***A personal checkup: Are you ...***
 - o Growing in familiarity with the Bible?
 - o Growing in interpretation?
 - o Growing in theology/doctrine?
 - o Growing in reading?
 - o Growing in meditative contemplation?
 - o Are you bored with it?
 - o Is it all work?

[How would you describe God's Word?

- o Hammer (Jer 23:29)
- o Mirror (Jms 1:23)
- o Water (Eph 5:26)
- o Sword (Heb 4:12)
- o Lamp and Light (Ps 119:105)
- o Honey and Gold (Ps 10:10)
- o Milk (1 Pet 2:2)
- o Bread (Mt 4:4)
- o Meat / Solid Food (Heb 5:13-14)
- o Seed (Lk 8:11)

more...

- o *Deuteronomy 6:6-9 Deuteronomy 32:46-47, Psalm 1:1-4, Psalm 19 and 119, Jeremiah 9:24, Jeremiah 15:16, Jeremiah 23:29, Isaiah 55:10-12 Isaiah 66:2, Matthew 4:4 John 6:67-68, John 8:31-32, John 17:17, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 2:2-3*

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Discussion 2: Among you

- ***Do you allow people to get close enough to you to see your real self and speak God's truth into your life?***

- ***Does the Word permeate your conversations and interactions with one another?***

[Not a call to weirdness ... and certainly not to pride.]

- *Do you allow non-essentials (such as musical preferences) to be “deal breakers” in your fellowship?*

[Brainstorm others... formality of dress, décor ...]

- *Strategize how to stir one another to good works (a.k.a. obedient acts).*

[Feel free to put that in question form... *how* can you stir one another to good works?]

Read or pray together

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:9-16** How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! ¹³ **With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.** ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:57-64** The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. ⁵⁸ I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. ⁵⁹ When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; ⁶⁰ I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. ⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. ⁶² At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. ⁶³ **I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.** ⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

Discussion 3: to Him...

^{ESV} **Psalm 145:3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

- *Does praise for God permeate your thought life and conversations?*

[Make sure people don't limit "praise" to singing. It includes it, but is not limited to it.]

Read or pray together

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:171-172** My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes. ¹⁷² My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:174-176** I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight. ¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me. ¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Discussion 4: in His Name...

Read or pray together

^{ESV} **Psalm 119:89-94** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. ⁹¹ By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. ⁹² If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. ⁹³ I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. ⁹⁴ I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.

^{ESV} **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

^{ESV} **Colossians 1:15-20** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- *In what other name would we desire (or dare) to do all things?*

[Make sure “Big God-Little Me” characterizes the discussion!]

Discussion 5: with Gratitude

[This is an expanded repeat from two weeks ago; It’s worth revisiting!]

- *What does Word-centered faithfulness look like?*
 - *How does it fuel strength, endurance, patience, and joy?*
- *The thankfulness emphasis (seven times: v. 1:3,12; 2:7; 3:15,16,17; 4:2)*

[Leaders--Lead out in repentance for our ungratefulness.]

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 3:2-5** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

- *Does thankfulness characterize your personal and corporate prayers?*
- *How about your attitude?*
- *What does lack of gratitude reveal about us? [Pride...]*

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 - *How about your attitude?*
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