

Lesson 14

Colossians 3:15-17

Day 1

Remember last week's paragraph title in the context of today's lesson. Paul is still talking about what it looks like to walk in a worthy manner. Jesus has qualified us through a renewal that makes us able to please Him in all respects. In Colossians 3 we have: RENEWED HOPE (v.1-4), RENEWED PASSIONS (v.5-7), RENEWED SPEECH (v.8-11), and RENEWED RELATIONSHIPS (v.12-23).

1. Let's look again at Colossians 3:15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."
 - a. What are the two commands given?
 - b. As a unified body of believers, to what are we called?
 - c. What is "the peace of Christ" and why is it important? (Ephesians 4:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, John 17:20-23)
 - d. The Greek for "rule" is *brabeuō*, which literally means, "arbitrate," or "sit as umpire." Look back at Colossians 3:12-14. Why do you think the command at the beginning of v.15 comes after the command to forgive and bear with one another?
 - e. Relate this to last week's lesson. Remark on how you are doing with the difficult situation or person from Lesson 13, Day 3, Question 10.

Day 2

2. Meditate on Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
 - a. What does the command in Colossians 3:16, “dwell” (*enoikeo* G1774), mean?
 - b. What kind of “word” is to dwell in us? What is it (Romans 10:17, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)?
 - c. Where is the word of Christ to dwell?
 - d. How is the word to dwell?
 - e. What “bubbles out” when the richness of Christ’s word dwells in you?
3. We have seen this pair of words, “teaching and admonishing,” before in the book of Colossians. “Teaching” is the positive presentation of God’s instructions, while “admonishment” is the warning to stay away from sin. Where have we seen this pair before? Are there any similarities between Colossians 3:16 and the verse/s you found?
4. By what means are believers to teach and admonish in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19?
5. Think about the idea of RENEWED MUSIC. Not only are our hopes, passions, speech, and relationships renewed, so is what we celebrate and sing! Think about how truth set to music allows our emotions to confirm what the scriptures say. Everyone in the world sings and has music, but we are commanded to teach and admonish with renewed music. What a great blessing this is in our lives when our hearts are caught up in confession of praise, thanksgiving, God’s attributes, Christ’s attributes, and the power of the Spirit in the believer’s life (just to name a few truths). However, singing truth is not a new concept. What was Moses commanded to do in Deuteronomy 31:19 and how did he respond (31:22)?
6. Read Deuteronomy 32 and determine if this was a song that taught or admonished (or both). Why do you think this is? Also look at Deuteronomy 31:24-30.

Day 3

7. Several authors wrote inspired music in the book of Psalms. Next to the Psalm below, on the right, write down the attributes of God or of God's promised Messiah that is proclaimed. In a different color, write down any truth being spoken. Underline any admonishments. I have given you examples to get you started:

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

90:1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

God is a long lasting place of refuge

2 Before the mountains were born

Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

God is the creator

3 You turn man back into dust

And say, "Return, O children of men."

Death will come

4 For a thousand years in Your sight

Are like yesterday when it passes by,

Or as a watch in the night.

5 You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep;

In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.

6 In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew;

Toward evening it fades and withers away.

7 For we have been consumed by Your anger

And by Your wrath we have been dismayed.

8 You have placed our iniquities before You,

Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

9 For all our days have declined in Your fury;

We have finished our years like a sigh.

10 As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years,

Or if due to strength, eighty years,

Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow;

For soon it is gone and we fly away.

11 Who understands the power of Your anger

And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?

12 So teach us to number our days,

That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

13 Do return, O LORD; how long will it be?

And be sorry for Your servants.

14 O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness,

That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us,

And the years we have seen evil.

16 Let Your work appear to Your servants

And Your majesty to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;

And confirm for us the work of our hands;

Yes, confirm the work of our hands.

Day 4

8. Many commentators and pastors believe that the New Testament church had a few hymns that were being sung. The strongest case for this is 1 Timothy 3:16, but many also suspect Colossians 1:15-20 is, too. On what truths were these songs focused?

9. The words to the hymn “And Can It Be That I Should Gain?” by Charles Wesley are written for you below. Write down any truth being spoken that helps believers renew their minds as to what God has done for them through Christ Jesus. Use scripture references as much as you can. I have given you an example to get you started:

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

1 Peter 2:21-24. God cares about His creation to send a savior

Refrain:
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

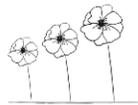
He left His Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

10. What we sing and celebrate tells us something about what is in our hearts. When God's Word is at home in a believer, the natural outcome is a heart that is full of truth and thankfulness. Write down the words to a spiritual song that encourage you in your spiritual walk or remind you of who you are in Christ. How does this song help you to be thankful (Colossians 3:17)?

11. Sing this favorite song today, and meditate on the truth of scripture to which it is speaking. Encourage someone else with that truth. Who was it that you encouraged with this truth?



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

Ideas for application:

- Are you struggling with being thankful? Then turn to music that reflects on your great Savior and Salvation to help you accomplish God's will for you. Ask some friends which songs really encourage them in the Lord. Add those songs to your playlist.
- Moms and grandmas: Take time to pause a song and explain the meaning of the words to the children in your lives.

Day 5

12. All the commands of 3:1-16 can really be summed up in a RENEWED LIFESTYLE: “Whatever you do in word or in deed do ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,” includes all the tasks you accomplish for your own care and for the care of others. List three people with whom you interact with on a weekly basis and the deeds that you perform for them. Think about how you can do everything for the glory of God through Jesus Christ in these deeds. I did a few as an example:

Person	Task	How I can do this in the name of Jesus Christ?
Husband	pack lunch	Pray for him as I pack his lunch. I can do it with cheerfulness.
	errand	I can finish this task before I get to my own “to do” list.
	pray for him	Regularly without being distracted by selfish prayers.

