



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 3:15-17 - Peace of Christ, Word of Christ and Giving Thanks

•Col 3:15 – “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

- What is *the peace of God* (*Christ* in older versions)?
 - And this is the promise Christ has given us.
 - *John 14:27 - “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
 - I really like Thayer’s definition here – ‘the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is’
 - *Phil 4:7 - and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
 - How is the *peace of God* to be distinguished from *peace with God*?
 - *Rom 5:1 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*



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- » Notice from both *peace of* and *peace with God, Jesus Christ* is essential!
- What does it mean to have *the peace of God rule in our hearts*?
 - *rule* – *brabeuō*, present active imperative, and only NT use.
 - » Olympic term - to *umpire, govern or control*
 - » This is up to us; how do we let this *peace rule in our hearts*?
 - *in our hearts* – the totality of one's inner life
 - » McCalley – mind (*Psalms 14:1*), emotions (*Rom 10:1*), will (*Rom 10:10*).
 - Clarke – ‘When a man loses his peace, it is an awful proof that he has lost something else; that he has given way to evil and grieved the Spirit of God. While peace rules, all is safe.’
- Here again is the *one body* concept!
 - *we are called* – aorist passive indicative
 - *Rom 12:4,5* - *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,*
 - *Eph 2:16* - *and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*
 - Also *1 Cor 12:14,18, 25; Eph 4:4*



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- Alford says: “**Oneness of body** being the sphere and element in which that **peace of Christ** was to be carried on and realized.”
- Expositors says: "Disunion in the body is incompatible with the **peace** of the individual members.“
 - *Psalms 28:3 - Do not take me away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, who **speak peace** to their neighbors, but **evil** is in their hearts.*
 - For what are we to *be thankful (eucháristos)*, even the trials?
 - Whatever, this is also imperative – a continuous obligation, therefore do it!

• *Col 3:16 – “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 (logos) of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom*
 - Only NT use of *the word of Christ*.



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– *dwell richly* is to influence abundantly, i.e. at home in us.

» *dwell* is the third imperative here.

» *1 Tim 6:17 - Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*

– Does this mean memorize and/or meditate – which comes first?

– *in all wisdom*

» Strong's definition of wisdom - devout and proper prudence intercourse with men not disciples of Christ; skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth, the knowledge and practice of the requisites for godly and upright living.

– *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

• Except for *admonishing*, paralleled in Paul's epistle to the *Ephesians*.

– *Eph 5:19 - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

• What about *admonishing one another*?



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- Wuest – ‘to warn, exhort, admonish. The word contains the ideas of encouragement, reproof, blame, as well.’
 - » *Rom 15:14 - Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another*
- *psalms and hymns?*
 - Likely an admixture of OT (David’s psalms) and Christian music, both *spiritual*.
- *with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
 - *1 Cor 1:14:15 - What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will **sing with the spirit**, and I will also **sing with the understanding**.*

•Col 3:17 – “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

- McCalley - the word *all* is emphatic.



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- And **do** is the 4th imperative.
 - *1 Cor 10:31 - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
 - *2 Cor 5:15 - and He died for all, that **those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him** who died for them and rose again.*
- This is not a set of Christian rules, but a life that is in Christ!
 - *Gal 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*
 - *Phil 1:21 - For to me, **to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.*
 - » Either way we win!
- *giving thanks to God the Father through (by) Him.*
 - The *Lord Jesus Christ* is always our vehicle to the *Father*!
 - How are we doing here?

KEEP LOOKING DOWN!