

"Living out the Virtues of the Christian Life"

Part 6

Colossians 3:12-17

Introduction: Tonight, we shall continue our study of the virtues of the Christian life which is located in Colossians 3:12-17. So far, we have considered 10 of the virtues listed in these verses.

- 1) Bowels of mercies
- 2) Kindness
- 3) Humbleness of mind
- 4) Meekness
- 5) Longsuffering
- 6) Forbearing one another
- 7) Forgiving one another
- 8) Love
- 9) Peace of God.
- 10) Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Last week we talked about the importance of allowing the Word of Christ to dwell in us.

Notice Colossians 3:16

The idea here is that the Word of Christ would flood every area of our lives to the point that it would completely change how we relate to others and how we view everything around us. The indwelling Word of Christ is what is needed within our lives because it strengthens us for the battle we are in.

Luke 6:45-49

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.*

⁴⁶ *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

⁴⁷ *Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:*

⁴⁸ He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

⁴⁹ But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

There are two points to see in the Words of Jesus. First a heart that has is filled with His Word will manifest itself by the way the person communicates. Second, we see that a person who has the Word dwelling in them will be strong and will endure the storms of life. This second point is also seen in other verses.

Psalm 1:1-4

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Joshua 1:8-9

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Let me show you what has happened in the lives of many believers.

2 Kings 22:1-4, 7-8, 10-11

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

² And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

³ And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,

⁴ Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:

⁷ Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.

⁸ And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, **I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.** And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

¹⁰ And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

In Josiah's day the Book of the Law which was the Word of God had been lost in the rubble and when it was found and read it brought about repentance. This has happened in the lives of many believers. The Word of Christ has been buried in the rubble of busy lives and it needs to be rediscovered and read for then it would bring about needed change.

One point we did not consider last week is the word "richly" and how this pertains to our lives.

Notice Colossians 3:16 again.

The Word of Christ is to be permitted to dwell in us "RICHLY," so what does this mean? The word "richly" could also be translated "abundantly." So, the idea is that we are to take in an abundance of the Word. Our diet in the Word is not to be "lean" but it is to be in abundance. The more the Word of Christ is taken in the wealthier we become spiritually. What does a spiritually rich life look like? This question brings us to the next virtue.

11)Rich fellowship.

Notice Colossians 3:16 again.

There are 3 words here in the middle of this verse that we need to consider.

a. Wisdom

The believer who allows the Word of Christ to dwell in them richly is a believer who walks in wisdom. Oh, how important this is today when there is so much deception in our world. Wisdom is a priceless commodity today. Not worldly wisdom for worldly wisdom is demonic.

James 3:14-15

¹⁴ *But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

¹⁵ *This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

The world is full of this kind of wisdom. But the wisdom that comes from God is what is needed and it must be mined as gold and silver are mined.

Proverbs 2:1-7

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

² *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

⁶ *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

⁷ *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*

Knowledge and wisdom must be sought after and it comes when the Word of Christ dwells richly in our lives. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Knowledge is to know the Truth. Wisdom is the ability to apply the Truth.

Proverbs 3:12-14

¹² *For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

¹³ *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

¹⁴ *For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*

One of the ways in which Satan is attempting to destroy the church is through apostasy. He is introducing false teaching that is leading many down a path of apostasy. The way to be protected is to be saturated with the Word of God and to constantly be seeking the wisdom of God.

b. Teaching

This flows from the wisdom that is a result of the indwelling of the Word of Christ. Anyone who is a teacher of the Word of God must be growing in wisdom so as to lead the students to a higher level of spirituality. Now someone may say that they do not have the position of a teacher. But we do as parents, grandparents, husbands, and wives. We have many opportunities to teach the people around us. Children need parents who have Godly wisdom. We have talked about this before and I will say it again, Satan is targeting the children in our society. They are being indoctrinated with the garbage of the world. There are many children today who are so confused about the basics of life. Notice what the writer of Hebrews said of his readers.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

*¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, **even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

In verse 14 the writer gives the idea that a believer who does not grow in the Word can actually be brainwashed to the point of struggling to know what is good and what is evil.

In our society today good and evil have traded places. What is good is called evil and what is evil is called good. If a believer does not remain in the Word and they get caught up in the world they can become confused by the enemy and struggle to know the difference between good and evil. An example of this would be believers who come to accept the homosexual lifestyle or any kind of immoral practices. There was a time when two people living together before marriage was completely unacceptable. But today I can assure you that there are believers who have this going on in their families and there is nothing said. It starts out being overlooked, then it is tolerated, then it is accepted as a way of life today, and now there is no stand taken against it. I remember a lady who was confronted on her sin years ago and she looked right at me and asked, "Does my life offend you?" My

response was, "I am not the one who matters. The question is does your lifestyle offend God?"

Getting back to the point we must be filled with the Word if we are going to instruct others.

c. Admonishing

This word has some what of a double meaning. It means "to warn" and "to teach others how to apply Scripture." When Paul called the elders of Ephesus together, he used this word but it is translated in a different way.

Acts 20:31

³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

The word translated "warn" here is the same word. So, it has the idea of watching out for others and warning them when they drift away from the Truth of God's Word. This is the opposite of what many churches teach today for they say we should not judge people. They will use several passages out of context to support their position.

Matthew 7:1-5

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

⁴ Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

⁵ Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

This text was addressed directly at the Pharisees because they were critical of others who would not keep the Law while they themselves could not keep the Law.

John 8:1-7

Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

⁴ They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

⁶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

⁷ So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

This too was directed at the religious leaders. They caught the woman in the very act but they did not bring the man. Maybe he was one of the religious leaders. The point was they did not care about what had happened they were only trying to back Jesus in the corner.

Conclusion:

We are to love one another and true love will not allow the one loved to go down a path of sin but will warn them.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷ Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.