

DAILY LIVING:

COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

12. "PUT ON THEREFORE, AS THE ELECT OF GOD, HOLY AND BELOVED, BOWELS OF MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMBLENESS OF MIND, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING.

13. FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, IF ANY MAN HAVE A QUAREL AGAINST ANY: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO DO YE.

14. AND ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON CHARITY, WHICH IS THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS.

15. AND LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEART, TO THE WHICH ALSO YE ARE CALLED IN ONE BODY; AND BE YE THANKFUL.

16. LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLI IN ALL WISDOM; TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD."

Paul gives instructions to believers to imitate Christ and allow Him to be our example. He teaches us how we are to live for God day by day. Believers are one in Christ, we are equal, no one is above the other, we are free by the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our lifestyles should be different from those who are not followers of Jesus Christ.

Verse twelve tells us that we are selected by God, we are holy and beloved. Because of this, there are things we must do daily, not only are we to do them daily, but they should be our lifestyles. We are to put on TENDER MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS AND LONGSUFFERING: As God's elect we are to put away anger and replace it with tender mercies.

When we consider where we could have been, but for God, our attitudes must be changed, and we endeavor to be more like Christ. Never seeking revenge, instead we become grace extenders to others. We no longer allow pride to cause us to be boastful, but exchange it for humility, gentleness and are very gentle and patient with others.

Our strength is exhibited through our gentleness and patience. At all times we model Christ. When we are treated unkindly, we return kindness. The Bible tells us that in order to walk with God we must be humble, and those who are meek will inherit the earth. God rewards those who follow Christ' examples. Notice the verse tells us to put on these qualities. The NIV says clothe yourselves. In the same way we put on clothes daily, we are to put on tender mercies, kindness, meekness, humility, and longsuffering daily.

2 When we were selected by God, He forgave us all our sins; therefore, we must forgive those who hurt us. Forgiveness means relinquishing all claims for restitution and praying for the welfare of those who hurt us. This is not easy, if we try to do them in our strength it will be impossible, but we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength to succeed. We have the Holy Spirit who is our Helper and Counselor, we must allow Him to help us. Our actions and words must match, what we say should be what we do.

Verse fourteen tells us that love will motivate us to be holy and be Christlike. Our love for God overrules any negative thoughts that the enemy tries to use to stop us along the way. That love allows us to be obedient and do what He commands us to do. Our kind service to others is not done as duties, but lovingly serving the Lord.

The power of the gospel is not only to soften the hearts of men, but to sweeten them to promote friendship and reconciliation among them and with God. Love should be the

cornerstone on which our relationship is built. Our love for God, ourselves, and others; Jesus said that these are the first and second commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40).

When we are motivated by love, the most challenging task becomes light. We can do all these when we love God, put Him first in our lives and trust Him with our lives. Jacob served seven years in order to get Rachel, the woman he loved, to be his wife and he said those years were like days. (Genesis 29:20)

Christmas should be at peace. Being at peace does not mean that all differences of opinions will suddenly disappear, it means that in spite of our differences, we are able to live harmoniously. Such love is not a feeling but a decision to meet others' needs. Being loved leads to peace with individuals and unity in the body of Christ.

When we are at peace, we are allowing our lights to shine so that others will see our good works and be led to glorify God, and He will draw them to Him. Our love will benefit us and others, but it will also bring glory to God. We will be able to accomplish what this passage is teaching us, only when we submit ourselves to God and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us so that we walk in the Spirit and not by flesh. Love unites us and enables us to have peace one with the other.

We are told to allow the word of God dwell richly in us (16) The word of God must reside in us, not as a servant but as our Master. It is to instruct us in all things. It is to be our guide. It should not be an occasional visitor but a resident. It should be the Master, the one in charge, who gives the orders, and we obey. It should be in charge, our ruler. It must be at hand to us in everything and dwelling richly. It should keep our hearts clean and pure.

Our souls will prosper when the word of God dwells richly in us. May God help us to apply the wisdom of this passage as we, with thanksgiving praise Him for selecting us and including us into His family.