**The New Song > A New Consecration**

***II Corinthians 5:17 & Colossians 3:16***

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Introduction: The question has been asked: “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” To which we might add: “Or would you be released due to lack of evidence?” Dr. Wilbur Chapman, a famous pastor of some years ago, had what he called, “My rule for Christian living.” He explained it as follows. “The rule that governs my life is this: anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, & I must, as a Christian, turn away from it.” Someone later commented, “This simple rule may help you find a safe road for your feet along life’s road.” (The Sawdust Trail). Do you, as a Christian, have any such rules or principles that you seek to live by? Here in our text, Paul gives what I believe could be called “three life-controlling principles.” I think we could put them in the context of II Corinthians 5:17. Last week we considered 2 of the 3 new things indicated by this verse: the new birth – a new creation, & the new life – a new *“conversation.”* We come this morning to the new song – a new consecration. The middle of the 3 life-controlling principles will be our message for this morning. Tonight we will consider the other 2 principles. Note with me here in Colossians 3:16, “Let the Word of Christ reside.”

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 I. Let the **Word** of Christ reside by dwelling richly (the incoming Word)

 A. *“Dwell”* –

 1. “To live in, be at home, have free access to” or “to feel at home.”

 2. We must be in the Word if the Word is to be in us (suggested by MacArthur):

 a. We must “hear” it > Matthew 13:9.

 b. We must “handle” it > II Timothy 2:15.

 c. We must “hide” it > Psalm 119:9-11.

 d. We must “hold” it > Philippians 2:16.

 Summary: The Word of Christ “should be in us as *dwelling* there, inhabiting us as its house &

 home. It should not be treated as a stranger, or slave at a distance, but received as an everyday &

 intimate guest, rather indeed, as the master of the house who regulates all things in it” (Nicholson).

 B.  *“Richly”* -

 1. “Abundantly or extravagantly rich” - to be highly prized & appreciated:

 a. Do we highly prize & appreciate God’s Word?

 b. Long before prayer & Bible reading were taken out of the public schools they had been

 taken out of most homes.

 2. “The truths of Scripture should permeate every aspect of the believer’s life & govern every

 thought, word, & deed” (MacArthur).

 Application: “Many saved people cannot honestly say that God’s Word dwells in their hearts

 richly because they do not take time to read, study, & memorize it” (Wiersbe).

 II. Let the **Word** of Christ reside by teaching rightly (the outgoing Word)

 A. *“In all wisdom”* - “...the knowledge of the best means to the best end” (Nicholson).

 1. There is instruction (*“teaching”*) > the imparting of positive truth.

 2. There is admonition (*“admonishing”*) > the warning of consequences for choices.

 B. *“In psalms & hymns & spiritual songs”*

1. *“Psalms”* - *“psallo”* - O.T. psalms, sung to musical accompaniment:

 a. Originally an instrumental term, “plucking of the strings.”

 b. Songs of worship.

 2. *“Hymns”* – *“humnos” -* songs of praise composed by believers:

 a. Compositions addressed to God in worship.

 b. It is suggested that portions of the N.T. such as Colossians 1:15-20 & Philippians 2:6-11

 were *“hymns”* sung in the early church.

 3. *“Spiritual songs”* - *“odias”* - songs of testimony addressed to God & man:

 a. Consider Psalm 40:3, *“And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our*

 *God: many shall see it, & fear, & shall trust in the LORD.”* See also Revelation 5:9-10.

 b. “Spiritual songs embrace all other forms of Biblical truth that promote emotional & lyrical

 response within children of God” (Gromacki).

 Application: What kind of song do you sing when no one else is around??

III. Let the **Word** of Christ reside by singing resonatingly (the uplifting Word)

 [There is a parallel to being Spirit-filled. The results of “Word-dwelling” & “Spirit-filling”

 are the same > see Eph. 5:18 - 6:9 & cf. Col. 3:16 - 4:1]

 A. The song on our lips - our outward expression of praise:

 1. *“With grace”* - *“chariti”* - thankfulness? Also having experienced the grace of God.

 2. *“To the Lord”* –

 a. “The ultimate direction of all Christian music is to the Lord, in whose presence & for

 whose glory we sing (Ps. 95:1; 96:1; 98:1; 100:2)” (McAllister).

 b. “Singing is to be directed to God as praise & worship, offered to Him for His pleasure &

 glory” (MacArthur). The edification of believers is a by-product.

 B. The song in our hearts - our inward attitude of worship:

 1. The song on our lips is to reflect what resides in our heart (contrast: “Gospel” singers).

 a. “No unregenerated child of Adam can sing the gospel to the glory of God” (Havner).

 b. “It is a dangerous thing to separate the praise of God from the Word of God” (Wiersbe, see

 full quote).

 2. “True spiritual singing can only & must only proceed from the heart rightly related by faith

 in Christ & by following Christ. A lack of singing may indicate heart sickness” (MacArthur).

 Illustrate: “Lying Singing.”

Conclusion: Tonight we will consider the other 2 life-controlling principles found in this text: let the peace of God rule (:15), & let the glory (thanks) to God resound (:17). For this morning, is your life characterized by a new song? Is the Word of Christ dwelling in you richly? Are you teaching rightly the Word of Christ by your singing? And are you singing resonatingly the Word of Christ because of the song in your heart? Do you really practice what you sing? Are you guilty of “lying singing”?

 In closing, note the parallel to this verse found in Ephesians 5:18-19, *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing & making melody in your heart to the Lord.”* The results of “Spirit-filling” in Ephesians 5:19 are the same as the results of “Word-dwelling” in Colossians 3:16. In both contexts, the evidences of being filled with the Spirit & indwelt by the Word are the same: being joyful, thankful, & useful (submitted). Is your life evidencing one who is Spirit-filled & Word-indwelt? Again I ask, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Or, “Would you be released due to lack of evidence?”