

COL 3:16 - Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly

¹LET

- * If you LET IT IN, it will CHANGE your life.
 - * Do whatever it takes to give it INFLUENCE, AUTHORITY, CENTRALITY in your life.
- *Have you ever had the 'A-Ha' moment when you realised quite how valuable, inspirational & authoritative God's Word is? How did that revelation affect you? What does it mean to give the Word a) influence, b) authority & c) centrality in your life? And have you?*

²WORD OF CHRIST

- * Something is going to be DIGGING its ROOTS deep in your psyche. Someone is going to be FORMING & FRAMING your thoughts, values, worldview. Something is going to be CAPTURING your heart ... Make sure it's the WORD of CHRIST.
 - * What you ALLOW to DWELL in you is critical ... and you get to CHOOSE the Word of Christ.
 - * Is it going to be the PURE, INSPIRED Word of GOD?
 - * Or will it be the word of the WORLD? Hot-headed OPINIONS, FAITHLESS teachings, subtle LIES, your life EXPERIENCES?
- *What are the forces, people, agendas competing for attention in your psyche / trying to dig their roots into your thinking?*
- *What does it mean to have a biblical worldview? What elements of that worldview are currently under attack in society & culture?*
- * DANGER: You end up with a HALF-BAKED Christianity ... A word that's been DILUTED & DISTORTED ... That carries no POWER, offers no HOPE & answers none of your QUESTIONS.
 - * John 6:63, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ... The best decision you'll ever make, is to set THAT Word LOOSE in your life.
- *How do you 'strip the Word of its power?' Why does it offer you no hope if it's diluted & distorted? In what ways do Christians tend to compromise the Word? What is the difference if you treat it as the pure, untainted, inspired, original Word of God?*

³DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

- * Enoikeo: Someone that takes up PERMANENT RESIDENCE in your home.
- * Someone SO AT HOME they've decided to MOVE IN.
- * Word of God IN YOU will make you SPIRITUALLY RICH.
- * The Point: The Word of God will TRANSFORM our lives IF we ALLOW it to DWELL in us RICHLY.

→ *How do you make sure the Word has the appropriate welcome / is made to feel at home? For you, is it an occasional visitor or has it taken up permanent residence? Is it book you read, resource you sometimes tap into, reference you look up or is it 'living in you?' Is it just ideas in your head or has it captured your heart?*

→ *What is the correlation between dwelling richly and life transformation? What are the riches to be found in God's Word?*

THE HOW? → What steps can you take to make God's Word feel so AT HOME in your life that it takes up PERMANENT RESIDENCE?

a) MEDITATE (Prov 4:20-22)

- * God's Word won't start to DWELL IN YOU until you make a habit of DWELLING IN IT.
- * You need to GET it in & KEEP it in.
- * You need to DIG it SO DEEP, nothing / no-one can DIG it OUT.
- * Metaphor = CHEWING the CUD ... RUMINATE = MEDITATE & PONDER until it's been completely digested.

→ *How does one 'meditate the Word?' How do YOU meditate the Word? What methods / approaches have you found to be effective?*

b) MEMORISE

- * See list of 10 verses overleaf / What about learning Col 3?
- * An effective way to memorise scripture is to SING it.

3 Categories of Songs

- i) Psalms: Songs lifted DIRECTLY from SCRIPTURE
- ii) Hymns: Not taken directly from scripture, but INCORPORATING scripture & teaching DOCTRINAL TEACHING.
- iii) Spiritual Songs: Expressing Biblical truth, as INSPIRED & DIRECTED by the HOLY SPIRIT.

→ *How have you historically got on with memorising scripture? Can you take up the challenges above? What advice can you give your friends to help them with memorisation?*

→ *What songs do you have in your memory bank that are purely scripture? Maybe choruses from your childhood or even songs you learnt in Sunday school?*

c) MIRROR (James 1:22-25) → Don't just READ the Word; let the Word READ you.

- * We're not just after KNOWLEDGE, but WISDOM from the MIND of God, PASSION from the HEART of God & POWER from the SPIRIT of God.

→ *Why is wisdom so much more important than mere knowledge? What roles do teaching and admonishing play, and how does / should / could your church / Connect Group help in that?*