

March 7, 2010

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Monday

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly **dwelt** within you...

Let the word of God dwell in you? For many the word of God is barely a visitor on Sunday morning. Without Bible in hand or opened, the believer cannot think that the word is dwelling in them. To dwell it must first find ready entrance into your life. You must receive it gladly and anticipate its arrival. Even so, to dwell speaks of more than a mere entrance; it is a word of settled occupation. The word does not dwell with you if you only allow it to visit you once a week. No, to dwell speaks of a daily living arrangement. To dwell speaks of your daily conversation with the word, of your growing understanding and meditation upon its precepts. To be rich in the word means that you must live with the word. Do you? Will you?

Tuesday

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ **richly** dwell within you...

To richly dwell may be understood in two senses: 1) it may denote the extent of the dwelling. That is "let it dwell deeply, assuredly, in you" as opposed to dwelling superficially in you. It speaks of the strength of its dwelling. Be not a shallow believer in God's word. Let it go deep within you. 2) It may denote the outcome of the word's residence in your life. It speaks of the profit in knowing, memorizing, meditating, and applying the word to your daily walk. It is calling you to experience God's word which when applied is rich in blessing. Perhaps there is a bit of both senses here. You can adopt them both with profit. Let His rich word dwell richly in you and you will be richly blessed by abounding grace and maturity.

Wednesday

1Pet. 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Perhaps it is the result of so many translations and so much availability, but for many believers the word of God is no longer precious, no longer worth dying for. Not so with our Spiritual forefathers. Men like Wycliffe in England and Luther in Germany were willing to die for the word. They translated the word into the people's language and those blessed enough to gain a copy treasured and guarded it with their lives. Tyndale was martyred, burned at the stake for translating the word into English. Do you cherish God's word? Not, I hope, by leaving it on a shelf but by making it a treasured part of your walk with God.

Thursday

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Some argue over the bible instead of reading it and applying it to their lives, being satisfied to feel superior in knowledge rather than mature in application. Some will make different translation points of disunity, claiming a superiority of KJV, NASB, NIV, etc. Instead, find a translation you will enjoy reading, have more than one in your library if you can afford it. Compare them as you read. Dig deeper in reference works and commentaries if there is a possibility of differing understandings. Mainly, read the word and open your life to it. Study to know and understand it.

Friday

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God's word is living and active but its usefulness is evident only as it is brought to bear upon your life. Knowing it is important, even believing it is inspired, means little if you do not read it, hear it, receive it, and apply it to your life. The best medicine is useless unless taken. The fastest car is hopelessly stalled unless driven. The best GPS will leave you lost unless consulted. So the bible must be used to be useful. It must be applied to be applicable.