

## Teaching

The Peace of Christ ruling - Colossians 3:15

The Word of Christ Indwelling – Colossians 3:16

How? Teaching.

### **Colossians 3:16 The word of Christ let indwell you richly with or in all wisdom...**

This phrase modifies the Word of Christ indwelling you richly – in all wisdom. Question: Why does the phrase ‘in all wisdom’ modify letting the Word of Christ indwell you, rather than modifying what follows—*teaching*? Paul has already answered this in

### **Col. 2:3 in whom (in Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Next, we have the *Present Active Participle* of the Greek word *didasko* teaching, instructing, or causing to learn.

The *Present Participle* has the force of an *imperative* command to all pastor-teachers. The content of the teaching here is the Word of Christ or the wisdom found in the word of Christ.

The *Present Active Participle* is used to indicate the means of letting the word of Christ indwell the believer.

## **Teaching Colossians 3:16**

A multitude of Christians in America today do not want to sit under the teaching ministry of some pastor-teacher. This is because of a multitude of reasons:

- (1) They know more than he does. Then, find one who knows more than you! Surely, there is some pastor-teacher who knows more than you! Stop sitting and judging and maligning the pastor you are sitting under and find one who can bring you to even greater maturity and service of our Lord.
- (2) In your arrogance, you do not want to sit under the authoritative teaching of anyone. Get under the Filling of the Holy Spirit by grace through faith. Spiritual love is not arrogant.
- (3) You simply would rather be emoted by music. Stay tuned, that is coming up in this very verse.
- (4) You would rather be entertained by clever emotional stories, instead of verse by verse teaching. Clean out your itchy ears.
- (5) You don't see the need to sit and learn the Word of God. Open the Bible and you will discover that this is the will of God for you, as indicated in our current passage.

**Teaching** *Present Active Participle* of the Greek verb *didasko*.

Paul returns again to the importance of whom you listen to in the proclamation of the Scriptures. And this is so true today, where there is so much heretical and false teaching, to no teaching at all, to just entertainment in a multitude of Churches.

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From Gnosticism to Calvinism.

From universalism to Chrislam.

From Grace salvation to all forms of works salvation.

From no filling of the Holy Spirit to mysticism.

From Replacement Theology to total omission of historical significance of Jews or of the Church.

It boggles the mind to think of many of the things that are being taught in churches today or rather what is not being taught. From men and women with no training to those with PhD's who still do not have a clue of what is going on in the Bible.

People, there is nothing more important than whom you listen to in what is presented as Biblical teaching. Everyone of these lies in heretical teaching can be made to sound so believable.

The Biblical Greek is so rich in words describing the function of the pastor-teacher. This is so important to God the Holy Spirit that He uses different words to express different emphasis in the teaching of the Word of God or the Word Christ, which of course are the same.

Here we have the *Present Participle* of *didasko*. All its cognates are derived from the Greek word *dao* which means to learn or in the causal, cause to learn by teaching. This word and it's cognates occurs some 100 times in the New Testament.

Principle: God desires for believers to learn the Word of God, Word of Christ, the Holy Scriptures.

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To illustrate the richness and variety of concepts of words used for teaching we have already had three in

**Colossians 1:28 We proclaim Him,  
admonishing every man and teaching every  
man with all wisdom, so that we may present  
every man complete in Christ.**

First, we have the *Present Active Indicative* “**we proclaim**” noting what should be the continual function of the pastor-teacher, of the verb *kataggello*, which means to declare openly or aloud, to communicate openly the truth of the Word of God. This word is followed by the *Present Active Participle* of the same verb we have in Col. 3:16 *didasko*. The Complete WordStudy Dictionary says of this verb: it “has inherent in it the intent to influence the understanding of the person who is taught.” OK, did you get that? It is the intent of everyone who stands up to preach, teach to ‘influence your understanding’ of the Scriptures. So, you should pay close attention to anyone trying to influence your understanding of what the Bible says.

The Wordstudy Dictionary goes on to say that the counterparts of this verb are

*akouo* = to hear for the purpose of understanding and  
*mathetes* = learner, pupil, disciple

We noted another word generally translated ‘preaching’ or ‘proclaiming’ in Acts 10:42 where Peter went into the house of a Gentile, Cornelius, who asked Peter to preach or proclaim Jesus Christ.

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**Acts 10:42**“And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One (Jesus Christ) who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

The objective in ‘preaching,’ *kerusso* is to strongly influence the will, to make a decision concerning who this Jesus is, Son of God and Savior and that you should believe in Him. This word is used generally of John the Baptist ‘preaching who this Jesus is.’ The interesting thing about this word is that by its very nature, it demands action on the part of the hearers...generally, the action of faith. This declaration challenges everyone to believe in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and then to live your life in reference to that initial faith.

**Matthew 3:1** now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching our word in the wilderness of Judea saying,

**Matthew 3:2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (call to action!)

This word is used to describe the speaking of Jesus:

**Matthew 9:35** Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming (our word) the gospel of the Kingdom (Believe that you might enter the Kingdom.)

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The Greek language is rich in words for communication of biblical truth. Note the words we have here in

**Colossians 1:28 We proclaim Him, (Jesus Christ) admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.**

You will note in this one verse we have three different words for communication of Biblical truth.

**We proclaim** *Present Active Indicative of kataggello* to announce or proclaim openly or aloud. This word emphasizes the manner in which the pastor teacher utilizes his spiritual gift. In Classical Greek, this word referred to “official reports” proclaimed publicly. In the New Testament it means “to proclaim a message authoritatively to the hearers.” The content of the message varies, he may, as here, proclaim news about Jesus the Christ. It may be the way of Salvation as in

**Acts 16:17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out saying, ‘These men are bondservants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming (our word) to you the way of Salvation.**

Or

**Acts 13:5 they began to proclaim the Word of God.**

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Or

**Acts 4:2 proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection  
from the dead**

Next in Colossians 1:28 **admonishing** *Present Active Participle* of the Greek verb *noutheteo* to firmly warn or admonish, or to exhort, to advise or urge.

**teaching** *Present Active Participle* of *didasko* to influence your understanding.

So, in this one verse we have three responsibilities of the Pastor-teacher.

- (1) He is to proclaim Jesus Christ and all that Jesus Christ is to the Father, to the world and to each individual believer.
- (2) Then he is to firmly admonish, even warn of believing in Jesus Christ and in making decisions in your life concerning the priority of Jesus Christ.
- (3) And he is to influence your thinking and understanding of Jesus Christ.

You will note we have yet another word for communication here in Colossians 1:28: **teaching**. This word emphasizes your part. **Didasko** to teach, to instruct. And your part as a hearer is to concentrate on what is being taught. One Lexicon: “this word was especially used for the impartation of practical or applicable knowledge which was basic to the development of skill of any kind.” So, when Jesus Christ was teaching or when a pastor-teacher is teaching (*didasko*) it is with the desired result that the hearers will know how to do or accomplish something.

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Another word close in concept to *didasko* is the compound Greek word **parakaleo**. This compound verb is made up of the prefix *para* which carries the idea of ‘to the side of’ plus *kaleo* to call. This word refers to communication that gives aid or help or comfort or encouragement and is translated to comfort, to exhort, to call for. You might recall the name for the Holy Spirit — *parakletos* in John 14:16. The word emphasizes communication that helps, comforts or encourages.

A good place to see this is in Acts 8:31 where the Ethiopian was reading in Isaiah and Philip asked if he understood what he was reading, to which the Ethiopian replied:

**Acts 8:31 And he (the Ethiopian) said, (to Philip) “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (where our Greek word is not ‘guides me’ but “he invited Philip” Actually:) he invited Philip to come up and help him understand what he was reading.**

Or you can see it in

**Acts 9:38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, (believers in Jesus Christ) having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, (to come and help them understand doctrine for this new age) “Do not delay in coming to us.”**



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But this word is not limited to a one on one but of a pastor-teacher to an assembly.

**1 Thessalonians 2:11 just as you** (believers in Thessalonica) **know how we** (Paul and his teaching team) **were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,**

OK, you can see here that we have three words for the responsibility of the Pastor-teacher in his communication of biblical truth.

**We were exhorting** *Present Active Participle* of our verb *parakaleo* comforting and encouraging with Scripture.

**And encouraging** This time we have the *Present Passive Participle* of the verb *paramutheomai* which means to speak kindly, to comfort or to pacify. A wise pastor-teacher considers his audience. Here, Paul is teaching them something entirely new, something that has never been on earth before, so he is careful to exhort them to continue in their learning and then to encourage them in any difficulties they may encounter in growing in the Word of God.

**and imploring each one of you** actually this word means to bear witness. A good place to see this is in

**John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify—bear witness about Me;”**

OK, how does this fit in our passage?

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**1 Thessalonians 2:11** just as you believers in Thessalonica

**know how we Paul *were* exhorting you in learning of the Christian way of life in the spirit-filled life.**

**and encouraging you may become weary or encounter opposition so we want to encourage you.**

**and imploring being a witness of the truth of these things, I Paul have gone through what most of you will go through but let me be a witness of the truthfulness of these things.**

**each one of you as a father *would* his own children, my son, my daughter, I know growing up has it's difficulties and setbacks and disappointments but let me exhort you not to give up but let me encourage you to keep on learning and growing...I have been there where you are, I am a witness to the wonders of being an adult in Christ.**

Let's see where we are in our study of the responsibilities of the pastor-teacher, the one you sit under to learn the Word of God.

1. *didasko* Col. 3:16 to influence your understanding of the Word of God; cause to learn by teaching; this word emphasizes your part in communication—to pay attention so that you may learn the Word of God. By the way, Jesus Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit would teach us in John 14:26. This teaching often includes challenging religious systems, like Judaism. Acts 21:21 and 28
2. *Kataggello*: to declare openly or aloud, to proclaim, preach openly. To communicate openly the truth of the Word of God. This word emphasizes the manner in which the pastor-teacher utilizes his

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spiritual gift, to proclaim a message authoritatively to the hearers.

The content of the proclamation varies in the New Testament:

the death of Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 11:26;

the resurrection Acts 4:2; 15:36;

the Word of God Acts 13:5; 15:36;

the way of salvation Acts 16:17;

the mystery of God 1 Cor. 2:1;

the gospel 1 Cor. 9:14;

the person of Jesus Christ Himself Acts 17:3 Col 1:28;

3. *Kerusso* The objective in ‘preaching.’ This word is too broad to limit it to ‘preaching.’ *kerusso* is to strongly influence the will, to make a decision concerning who this Jesus is, Son of God and Savior, that you should believe in Him and then that you should live in respect of your relation with Him. In Acts, the content of this verb is primarily Jesus while in the Synoptic Gospels the subject is the Kingdom. Both Paul and Peter concentrate on Jesus Christ. Emphasis of this word is not attached to the proclaiming as though Christianity contained something new in content. The gospel is not a new doctrine. The proclamation itself is what is new. In the Old Testament it was given in prophecy but now the proclaiming of the reality, the Messiah, Jesus has been crucified and resurrected.
4. *noutheteo* to firmly warn or admonish, or to exhort, to advise or urge. As you can see from the prefix—*nous* or the mind plus ‘to put into’ therefore, to put into the mind.
5. *parakaleo* This word refers to communication that gives aid or help or comfort or encouragement and is translated to comfort, to exhort,

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to call for. The word emphasizes communication that helps, comforts or encourages.

6. *paramutheomai* which means to speak kindly, to comfort or to pacify.

7. *apaggello* to tell, to declare, to announce as in

**Acts 11:13 “And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;**

And

**Hebrews 2:12 saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”**

And *anaggello*—to announce, to make known to declare

**Acts 20:20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,**

8. *diamarturomai* to bear witness, to testify earnestly or repeatedly

**Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse**

generation!” exhorting (parakaleo from #5 above)

**Acts 8:25 So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken (see next word below, laleo) the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.**

9. *laleo* most common word referring simply to speak, to communicate but the emphasis is on what is spoken:

**Acts 3:24“And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days**

**Acts 9:6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”**

coming up in Colossians

**Colossians 4:3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;**

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There are still a few other words but this will give you some ideal of just how important the teaching of the Word of God is to God the Holy Spirit.

But for this to happen---

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you richly with (or) in all wisdom---teaching**

For this teaching to occur:

1. The pastor-teacher must be a born again believer in Jesus Christ as Savior. He must be saved. Why? Only when a person is saved does God the Holy Spirit give him the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher.
2. At the point of salvation, saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior God, the Holy Spirit bestows on every believer a spiritual gift. But only a few males are given the gift of pastor-teacher.
3. While some things are extremely advantageous, like working knowledge of the Old Testament and New Testament languages these are not essential. But there are some things that are essential.
  - (1) Sitting as a member of a congregation where the Word of God is taught exegetically, categorically in verse by verse teaching. In other words, before becoming a pastor he must be a member of a congregation.
  - (2) Any number of activities that will teach him self-discipline like military training or academics.

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So, we have preparation and all that includes and for whatever period of time God determines for each individual. This training is personal and differs for each man on his way to becoming a pastor-teacher.

4. Then, there is identification. First, identification that he has the gift of Pastor-teacher. Once he makes this identification, he has set the course of his life. He is to study, study, study. Hopefully, in some seminary or some advanced academics in the languages and theology and if possible Church history.

Then there is identification with some local body of believers. Example: Paul and Barnabas were identified with the assembly of Antioch.

5. Knowledge of pertinent doctrines: like Salvation, Spirituality both by grace through faith; prophecy and above all spiritual love, to guide him in interacting with members of the assembly where he will teach and serve.
6. Marriage: Of course, it is not necessary that he be married. It is best if he identifies that he has the gift of pastor-teacher before he marries. But of course, this cannot always be done. The woman that he marries is very important to his success of study and teaching. She must compliment him not counter him. She does not have to be a servant of the church, which unfortunately many churches try to force her to be highly active in the assembly. It is more essential that she takes care of her husband and is a prayer warrior.
7. Final identification: Where does God want him to serve! This covers a variety of circumstances. But he must be led of the Holy Spirit as

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the congregation where he is thinking of going must also be led of the Holy Spirit.

Then his life is study---study—teach---study---study –teach to a group of believers who are responsible in taking care of his needs and in attendance to his teaching and respectful of his leadership decisions.