

Admonishing One Another

Since every believer has died with Christ (Colossians 2:20)

Since every believer has been raised up with Christ (Colossians 3:1)

**Colossians 3:16 ... (Let every believer)
admonish one another with psalms and
hymns *and* spiritual songs singing with
thankfulness in your hearts to God**

Admonish one another this is a *Present Active Participle* of the Greek compound verb *noutheteo*, made up of *nous* = mind + *tithemi* = to place; to place something in the mind; to warn, admonish and or exhort. It is used in context to imply prior resistance to truth.

One another this is rather difficult to translate into English in one or two words. This is a '*reflexive pronoun*' including first and second persons. For the first person referring to 'ourselves' and the second person referring to 'yourself.'

Admonishing yourselves

R.C.H. Lenski "As we sing together, we are instructing and admonishing ourselves."

Henry Alfred – "The instructing and admonishing is done by the members for themselves as a body" by singing together.

**Colossians 3:16 ... with psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs singing with thankfulness
in your hearts to God**

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We have three classifications: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Psalms: Songs sung with musical accompaniment. This word originated from the idea of ‘touching,’ as the touching of the harp or other string instruments with the fingers or with the plectrum (like a guitar ‘pick’). Over a period of time, this word came to be used as the song sung with musical accompaniment. In Ephesians 5:19, and here, it seems to refer to the inspired Psalms of the Hebrew Old Testament as in the title of many of the Psalms. For instance, in Psalm 3:1, **Title: a psalm of David.** In the Septuagint (Old Testament in Greek) the Hebrew word is *mizmor*. The Greek word used in our context in Colossians is *psalmos*. According to Volume 6 of the Complete Biblical Library, this Greek word is used in the New Testament ‘in two basic senses:

First, it refers to the Old Testament psalms,’ only once in

Acts 13:33 that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’

And he uses this word in referring to the entire book of Psalms:

Acts 1:20 “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it’; and, ‘Let another man take his office.’”

And **second,** it refers to songs of praise and joy.” Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.

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Hymns: *humnos* A song of praise directed toward God—Jesus Christ, even the Holy Spirit, to honor or praise them; praise for who they are, what they have done and what they are doing right now and what they will be doing in the future. When used in the New Testament, this word generally refers to psalms of the Old Testament sung in the New Testament, though not always. For example, when Matthew reports that Jesus and His disciples ...went out into the mount of Olives they sang. Most surely, they sang psalms of the Old Testament that were sung at Passover. Therefore, all the disciples would know the song. Matt. 26:30. Most likely they sang a song commonly sung at Passover which was taken from Psalms 115-118.

Spiritual songs: Not just songs but spiritual songs. Songs were sung to idols and to persons. In the 50's we had some of the most beautiful songs sung in honor of females. Females were respected. Young boys were brought up to respect girls, then ladies. But we had some beautiful songs to honor females like Nat King Cole's 'Unforgettable.' But songs sung in a church, in an assembly of believers was to honor members of the Godhead. Therefore, they are designated 'spiritual songs.' The Complete Biblical Library points out that the verb is used five times in the New Testament and the noun seven times. "The words are always associated with God or Christ." The noun is qualified by the word 'spiritual' which means "actuated by the Holy Spirit." Songs that are sung in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit are acceptable to God as a means of worshipping Him. You will note that all three of these words used here in Colossians 3:16 are not designed to appeal to the emotions but to the soul, the thinking of the person singing in worship of God. In the early church, singing was part of worship of God along with the study of the

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Word of God and the partaking of Communion. Singing was an expression of inner happiness from the Holy Spirit.

**James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering?
Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is
to sing praises.**

“The book of Revelation has much to say about the song of the eternal, heavenly world. The 24 elders sing a new song, a song about the redeeming blood of the Lamb.” The Complete Biblical Library.

**Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song,
saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and
to break its seals; for You were slain, and
purchased for God with Your blood *men* from
every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**

The new song is a direct response of praise to the Creator who is worthy to receive praise, honor and glory.”

**Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and
our God, to receive glory and honor and
power; for You created all things, and because
of Your will they existed, and were created.”**

Much of the Old Testament was written to be sung. On Thanksgiving eve, we closed with reading of Psalm 118. Three things are pertinent in this beautiful psalm. First, it is a psalm of thanksgiving. Secondly, verse 8 is the middle verse of the Bible which gives the gospel:

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Psa. 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man.

And third, it declares that Jesus Christ should be the song of our lives:

Psalm 118:14 The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.
(Jesus Christ should be the song of your daily lives.)

Isaiah chapter 12 records the same principle of making Jesus Christ the song of your life:

Isaiah 12:1 Then you will say on that day, “I will give thanks to You, O LORD; For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, And You comfort me.

Isaiah 12:2 “Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.”

Isaiah 12:3 Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation.

We are saved by grace through faith and we live by grace through faith.

Isaiah 12:4 And in that day you will say, “Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. (we are

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to give thanks and we are to be a witness) **Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make *them* remember that His name is exalted.”**

Isaiah 12:5 Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth. (Give thanks for our Internet outreach to the world.)

Isaiah 12:6 Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (This is Jesus the Christ.)

Colossians 3:16b ... admonish one another with psalms and hymns *and* spiritual songs singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God

Singing *Present Active Participle* of the verb that means to sing or render praise to God by singing.

1 Chroncles 16:23 Sing to the LORD, all the Earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

After the crossing of the Red Sea, Moses wrote one of the most beautiful songs of victory provided by God.

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Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, “I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. (Pharaoh’s army that pursued the people of Israel into the Red Sea.)

Exodus 15:2 “The LORD is my strength and **song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will extol Him.**

Exodus 15:3 “The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.”

I encourage everyone of you to read carefully this beautiful song. For example, people often try to figure out how the waters held so the people of Israel could walk across on dry ground, well this song answers that question:

Exodus 15:8 “At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up, The flowing waters stood up like a heap; The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Exodus 15:9 “The enemy (the Egyptians) said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be gratified against

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them; I will draw out my sword, my hand will destroy them.' (It is so interesting, all through history right up today, nations have declared they will destroy the Jews, but they are still here!)

Exodus 15:10 "You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Exodus 15:11 "Who is like You among the gods, (Allah, Budda etc.) O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (No One!)

Colossians 3:16 ...singing... Even in the Old Testament, singing has been a part of true worship toward God and of the members of the Godhead. But, it must line up with the Word of God. And it should be doctrine, that those who are singing, know the truth of that doctrine. You have truth in your soul about members of the Godhead, who they are, what they have done or doing or will do and you express this praise of God in singing. I am afraid that much of what passes for church singing is designed to lead to emotionalism, to make people 'feel good.' No, we sing because we have the peace of Christ in us.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...

We should not sing to 'feel good' or get this peace in our hearts, we should sing because the Holy Spirit has placed this peace in our hearts

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and we respond by singing praises. For a long time in the early church, they sang passages from the Bible, which of course is beautiful. Then, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) complained to his father that the singing was rather drab. So, his father challenged him to write a hymn that would be appropriate for church singing. The young lad wrote it that afternoon. It was sung that night. He wrote hymns reflecting on issues in the Bible such as ‘When I survey the wondrous cross,’ a classic that is still sung in some churches today. But I am afraid that many of our young people are not learning these classic hymns of praise, and I wonder if the songs they sing and jump to will be sung when they become older in life.

**Colossians 3:16 ... singing with thankfulness
in your hearts to God**

Certainly not once a year on Thanksgiving, Thursday, but every day, throughout the day.

with thankfulness (King James version) **with grace** (NIV version) **gratitude** another **with thankful hearts**. Sometimes we may say, let us pray, or let us give thanks or let us say grace. The Greek word is *charis*, which means to rejoice, grace, particularly that which causes joy, pleasure, for a kindness granted. This phrase does several things:

1st It demands that we be filled by the Holy Spirit. We studied how we are to love as Jesus Christ loves and we are to give thanks as Jesus Christ gave thanks. And in Luke chapter 10 we saw how He gave thanks in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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2nd It conveys our thinking, that what we are giving thanks for what we have received by grace, we did not earn nor deserve what we have received.

3rd It conveys a heart that is thankful to God for God's gracious provisions.

with thankfulness in your hearts the real you!—your soul.

toward God all prayer is addressed to God the Father. Even the prayers of Jesus Christ were addressed to God the Father John 17:1-2.

Now, I don't want you to miss this very important point about singing in the assembly.

First: We are to admonish one another with this singing.

Second: This singing, all three words, refers to praise to God or Jesus.

Third: We sing with a heart of gratitude to God.

This singing in the assembly is not for emotional experience but for admonishing one another and doing so in an attitude of thankfulness to God.

This is our sixth hour in this one verse in Colossians chapter 3.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

This is truly a power packed verse of the Bible.

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Now we move from singing to living.

The Peace of Christ Ruling (verse 15)

The Word of Christ Dwelling (verse 16)

The Name of Christ Motivating (verse 17)

Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The text begins with a *continuative conjunction*, continuing the exhortations since we have been raised up with Christ. (verse 1)

This verse contains an emphatic word that appears twice and neither NASV nor KJ has it twice. In fact, I found only three translations that translate this verse accurately. The Berean Literal Translation, Young's literal translation and the Wuest translation. And that emphatic word is a word that speed reading often misses. It is the all-inclusive word **all!**

And all the Greek text has the *nominative singular* of the Greek *pas*. This word is so important to your Christian life, indeed to your life itself. So many Christians today are so stressed out, depressed, so many are committing suicide. That is right, Christians who are saved in Christ, get so depressed they take their own lives. Why? Why indeed! Well this one little word that is just three letters in both Greek and English gives us a clue. This word basically contains the idea of 'oneness,' a 'totality or the whole.' OK, people you cannot live your life in a number of directions. So many Christians live one way on Sunday and then another way

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Monday through Friday, then Friday and Saturday night yet another. And you wonder why you are stressed out!

The Bible makes it so clear that every part of our lives should be in conformity to the whole. The next section of Colossians chapter 3 is going into marriage. You know why so many people are so disillusioned in their marriage? Because they do not live their marriage consistently with who they are in Christ. They are so aggravated about their marriage, their husband or their wife or their children, or their finances. I once knew a lady, she is now home with the Lord, and I will tell you her name, Christine Markle. I still remember the peaceful smile on this lady's face as she encountered death in her 80s. I hope each of you have met this kind of person in your life, whose very countenance conveyed peace of their souls. You can have this also. Today her children are in amazement at how she went through so many sufferings and remained calmed and at peace through them all. Well, this beautiful lady had peace of Christ in her soul and she lived her life consistent with her relationship with Jesus Christ no matter how her husband or even her children acted. What happens with most people, if those around them are causing all kinds of problems. They lose it. They respond to circumstances, instead of responding to their relationship with Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:17 and along with singing **all**, singular—all aspects of your life should be part of the whole---giving to your life a oneness!

This does not make very smooth English but great Greek. **And all** now we really see how the English has difficulty translating the Greek. We start with a relative pronoun translated **whatever things** but the Greek

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slips in an ‘if’ clause, which is not translated. So literally this should read:

and All whatever things if you do sounds awkward, so why am I spending this time on this complicated Greek phrase that most everyone else simply passes over? Oh, people, this is your life! God does not want you stressed out, God does not want you to become so discouraged, so disillusioned about your life. He desires so much for you to have inner peace ruling in your life and free of so many things that burden you down.

And All, whatever things, If you do *Present Active Subjunctive* of the verb to do. The *subjunctive mood* says, maybe you will do this or maybe you will do that, but **all, whatever things, If you do**. Do you see it? Calvinism is a Satanic attack against what Martin Luther turned loose in the world. You have inside of you the power, the ability, the responsibility to make a decision on what you are going to do or think in any and every circumstance in your life. You have that switch in your soul that you can turn to AM or FM: that is to Adamic Mindset or Faith Mindset.

And All, whatever things, If you do in word This is used to remind us that getting every area of your life into ‘one’ begins in your mind, and proceeds in your speech. It is so important that we learn to control our tongues. In the book of James, there is much about controlling the tongue. Instead of giving several points on the tongue, let’s just read how James in the power of the Holy Spirit says it.

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James 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. (So, don't judge others) If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

James 3:3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

James 3:4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

James 3:5 So also, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. **See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!**

Now in keeping with our study of keeping your life as One, note carefully verse 6:

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the **COURSE of our life, and is set on fire by hell.**

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James 3:7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; (we must learn to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit will tame our tongues) *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.*

James 3:9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; (See these are not one—they cause dissension in our lives.)

James 3:10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. (And if you know how to be filled by the Holy Spirit by Grace through faith, they won't be this way.)

James 3:11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?

James 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

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**Colossians 3:17 ...and All, whatever things If
you do, in word or deed...**

Ever know anyone who says one thing and does another? Well this is the inconsistency that causes for a disruptive Christian life. This causes inconsistency in your life and is what Paul is addressing in Colossians 2:17. We should make conscious decisions to have our word and deeds correspond and they will, when we are living in the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 10:11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word (*logos* same as in Colossians 3:17) by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present. (What Paul is saying is that he is consistent in his Spirit-filled life.)

Colossians 3:17 and All, whatever things If you do, in word or deed Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Do you see it? Or did you just speed read past the all-inclusive **All**. Repeat of the same word used at the beginning. God is stressing the point that every part of our lives should fit into being a new man in Christ.

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Let's see how this fits into chapter 3.

Since you have been raised up with Christ (verse 1):

Keep seeking the things above (verse 1)

Set your mind on the things above (verse 2)

Consider your bodies dead to various categories of sin (verses 5-9)

Put on the new self, who you are in Christ (verse 10)

Put on the clothing of the Holy Spirit (verses 12-14)

Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts (verses 15)

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in you (verses 16)

Let the name of Christ motivate everything you do in life (verse 17)