

Experiencing Gospel Overflow

Colossians 3:16

READY

Have you ever experienced an overflow of something that caused some excitement (good or bad)? Describe.

SET & GO

Primary Text: Colossians 3:16

Supporting Texts: Ephesians 5:18-20

Set 1 *Read Colossians 3:15 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

What does Paul say we should let indwell us? What might you have expected Him to say?

What are the three actions he says will result from or that will facilitate this indwelling?

What does this passage say about how we are to worship (hint: several answers are possible)?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss: Paul commands you to let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you. This word is the message **about** Christ, the gospel, as confirmed by the context (1:5, 25-28; 2:2; cf. also Acts 8:25; 12:24; 1 Thess. 1:8). But he doesn't mean the gospel that we often limit to evangelism. He means the **whole** message of the person and work of Christ that is the subject of the Bible from beginning to end. If not careful, you can read the Bible and miss this message. Letting the gospel richly dwell in you will mean intentionally seeking to understand how it is preached in all of the Bible so that it shapes all of your life.*

Go 2a Are you convinced that the gospel is **the** message of the Bible? If there is any doubt, briefly discuss these passages: Mk 1:14-15; Luke 24:27; 1 Cor. 1:23 and 2:2; Gal. 3:8; Phil. 1:27.

Go 2b How confident are you that you could explain the gospel? Discuss its simplicity and complexity. How does this allow for evangelism on one hand but for unending learning for believers on the other?

Go 2c Can you say that you are intentionally studying the gospel? If not, what keeps you from this pursuit?

Go 2d What active steps can you take now to grow in your understanding of the beautiful complexity of the gospel?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss: The word "dwell" refers to habitation. The gospel can dwell "in us" because Jesus **is** the gospel. It is not just that He **gives** you life; He **is** your life (3:4). You can't have life without having Him. As you meditate upon the message of Christ, His person and His work, this good news will increasingly "fill" your heart (cf. Eph. 5:18-20), and you will grow in an understanding of the treasures that you have in Him (2:2-3). If His life fills your life, there will be an overflow of His life to those around you.*

Go 3a Discuss the idea that Jesus **is** the gospel. Discuss how He **is** your life. Is this how you tend to think/speak of Him?

Go 3b The many treasures you have are stored up for you **in Christ**. Why is your union with Him of utmost importance?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss: When we let the message of Christ fill our hearts, the gospel overflow that results should spill into every area of our lives but especially into our church community. Note that Paul links gospel teaching and admonition to our use of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. This, along with the reference to singing, speaks to our corporate worship. He is teaching that our worship ought to be a result of the gospel's grip on our hearts and that its content ought to lead to gospel enrichment.*

Go 4a Can you identify ways that the gospel is overflowing from your life? Discuss how you can fan the flames of the gospel in your heart so that its heat radiates from you more readily.

Go 4b Singing is clearly a manifestation of gospel richness in a believer's life and was an expected part of worship. Do you enthusiastically join in our corporate singing? If not, what holds you back? How can you grow in this area?

Go 4c Notice that singing teaches and exhorts. Why does music so powerfully affect our thinking? What does this say about the importance of the lyrics in the music we sing or listen to?

FINISH

If you are struggling to understand the gospel, Pastor Kelly would love to meet with you. You can also seek out someone you know to have a good understanding. There are many who would love to help.

Walk it Out!
Living Christian in a New Reality

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Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ so fill your heart that it overflows into all your life.

1. Let the message of Christ fill your heart richly.
 - a. What is the 'Word of Christ'?
 - b. What does it mean for it to dwell in you?
 - c. How can you let it dwell richly?
2. Let the Word of Christ overflow into all your life.
 - a. Let the gospel overflow from you.
 - i. Through gospel _____.
 - ii. Through gospel _____.
 - iii. Through gospel _____.
 - b. Let the gospel overflow to you.
 - i. For gospel _____.
 - ii. For gospel _____.
 - iii. For gospel _____.