

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

The Richness of the Indwelling Word

Colossians 3:15-16

Thomas Jefferson was a Renaissance Man, with a brilliant and fertile mind who delighted in probing the physical universe in all of its fascinating variety... he loved fads and inventions and philosophies and politics... talking about and listening to the latest ideas

But he was first and foremost a FARMER... a man who yearned to see the soil bring forth everything it was capable of

His home in the hills of Virginia, **Monticello**, was a living laboratory of all that the soil of that region of the world was capable of sustaining

Flowers galore:

Jefferson, like most farmers, had standard beds with beautiful flowers filling them; but his interests were too diverse for the space of his flower beds, and he designed a winding walk which gave far more space for the flowers he wanted to plant. It was laid out in the spring of 1808... there were dozens and dozens of different types of flowering plants... including some radically new ones brought from the recent Lewis and Clark expedition; the flower beds at Monticello became a kind of living museum of New World flowering oddities

Fruits: Jefferson grew over 150 different varieties of 31 temperate species of fruit. Seedling peaches and Virginia cider apples were planted alongside European plums, French apricots and Spanish almonds; there were gooseberries, currants, and raspberries; there were blocks of cherry trees and two small vineyards; he created new ways of cultivating strawberries and figs.

Vegetables: Jefferson grew 250 varieties of more than 70 different species of vegetables, precisely recording the details of their growth. For Jefferson, the vegetable garden was a kind of laboratory where he could experiment with imported squashes and broccoli from Italy, beans collected by the Lewis and Clark expedition, figs from France, and peppers from Mexico. Although he would grow as many as twenty varieties of bean and fifteen types of English pea, his use of the scientific method selectively eliminated inferior types

Monticello was a rich, horticultural treasure, a testimony to the wide variety of plants that God made in creation. Of course it's a pity that Jefferson did not see fit to glorify the God who made these things or the Son, Jesus Christ, through whom He made them.

But Monticello, with its staggering variety of flowers giving beauty and fragrance; its astonishing array of orchards and vineyards giving sweetness and refreshment; and its overwhelming plots of vegetables giving delicious and healthy sustenance to life... to me Monticello is a picture of the richness of a healthy church in which the word of God is allowed to flower richly in the lives of its people

Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

I. Elements of a Happy, Fruitful Christian Life

- A. Heavenly Mindset (vs. 1-4)
- B. Vigorous Warfare Against Sin (vs. 5-9)
- C. Walking Together in the “New Self” (vs. 9-14)
- D. Hearts Saturated with Christ (vs. 15-17)
 - The Peace of Christ Ruling Our Hearts
 - The Word of Christ Richly Dwelling in Our Hearts
 - The Name of Christ Motivating Our Hearts
 - Thanks to Christ Constantly Given by Our Hearts

II. The Peace of Christ Ruling Your Heart (vs. 15)

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

A. Genuine Peace in a Turbulent World

1. Denied to all unbelievers

Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

2. Impossible to counterfeit

- a. Some try to drown their sorrows through **alcohol**; for a few hours, they become “Comfortably numb”; but alcohol is a depressant, and the people awake with their head on fire, and with no problems solved
- b. More and more people in the world use **medications** to try to produce feelings of peace
 - i) Staggering numbers of people, harassed by spiritual issues, plagued by guilty consciences, overwhelmed by the demands of their fast-paced lives turn to mood-altering drugs, prescribed by physicians or psychiatrists
 - ii) Prescriptions for psychoactive drugs have increased from 131 million in 1988 to 233 million in 1998, with nearly 10 million prescriptions filled last year for Prozac alone. The market for antidepressants in the USA is now \$6.3 billion per year. Additional huge numbers of people use herbs to influence their moods. I cannot find solid data on how many people in the USA take antidepressants, but a calculation based on sales suggests a rough estimate of 20 million.

Psychiatry has a reflexive impulse to treat life’s vicissitudes with drugs, rather than help patients to deal with root causes. ... Generally, psychiatry starts and ends with a pill

- c. People also resort to mood music, yoga, meditation, and breathing techniques
- d. Some get addicted to physical exercise—the “runner’s high”—that makes them feel at peace for a short time...
- e. Others resort to materialism... they go shopping... it’s called “retail therapy”

The first reference being this sentence in the [*Chicago Tribune*](#) of Christmas Eve 1986. "We've become a nation measuring out our lives in shopping bags and nursing our psychic ills through **retail therapy**

- f. BUT if your conscience is accusing you and you are terrified of dying and facing judgment from God, these techniques—alcohol, medications, yoga, will accomplish nothing

3. In this world of sin: Strife and conflict the norm

Within individual hearts... In families... In communities... Within nations...
Between nations in the world

4. The world cannot counterfeit the peace we need

Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

B. A Gift Given by Christ Alone

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

1. Christ's promise

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- a. So in John 14, Jesus is promising a gift of His peace to His disciples that is NOTHING LIKE the peace the world gives... a peace as fleeting as a morning mist
- b. No... the peace of Christ is permanent, it is eternal
- c. He is called the "Prince of Peace" in Isaiah 9... a lasting peace that will someday characterize the entire world

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

2. Two different ways to understand the promise

- a. OBJECTIVE "peace of Christ" = the peace Christ gives in the STATUS of our relationship with God... being "at peace with God"
- b. SUBJECTIVE "peace of Christ" = the peace that characterized Christ... that He had on earth as a character trait, and that He still has

C. Objective Peace: A Status of Peace with God Through Christ

Illus. Like the state of peace that occurs between two countries: like between Great Britain and the United States... twice we were at war with each other, but now we are reconciled, and a state of war exists between us

1. At one point we were enemies of God... we at war with Him in our minds and lifestyles, God at war with us in impending wrath and judgment... WE WERE ENEMIES OF GOD

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

2. What a terrifying thing to have the eternal God as an enemy... to have all His power and His creative energy focused like a laser beam on our eternal destruction

3. AND God was at war with us apart from Christ whether we felt it or not

They say High Blood Pressure is the “silent killer”, since you don’t feel it’s effects; the real silent killer is God’s war with us, being under the wrath of God

4. BUT NOW, we have been reconciled, and at last GOD IS AT PEACE WITH US

Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

5. this objective status of peace exists and does not change no matter what... whether we are FEELING peaceful or not; God is at peace with us now in Christ

D. Subjective Peace: An Experience of Peace Like Christ

1. Jesus: perfect picture of serenity, and peacefulness even while being arrested and tried
 - a. The soldiers come to arrest Him, Jesus goes boldly out to meet them and negotiates coolly the release of His disciples
 - b. Jesus is taken to Annas’s house and is smashed in the face for an answer He gave: coolly and peacefully

John 18:23 If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"

- c. On trial for His life before Pilate, He is never flustered, always under control... never gives in to fear or hatred

John 18:37 "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

- d. On the cross, Jesus is fulfilling prophecy, caring for His mother, assuring a thief **"Today you will be with me in paradise."**
- e. Unshakable peace... absolute trust in the Father... even to the very end of his life

Luke 23:46 "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

- f. It is THIS peace, the "peace of Christ," that Jesus said He would give us; it is THIS peace that Paul says must rule in our hearts...
2. Not absence of bad things, but overwhelming fullness, presence of God
 - It is being held in the arms of a powerful Savior, not fearing that the constant pull of gravity will eventually overwhelm Jesus' grip and cause you to fall to your death
 3. Perfect peace will characterize our experience in the New Heaven and the New Earth

New Earth, in a resurrection body: Imagine sitting on a high mountain, feeling no pain in your perfect body; no fear of pain or death, no regrets, nothing on the horizon that causes you anxiety; you are looking down from that lofty perch on a silvery river threading its way through a fruitful valley far below you... your eye is captured by the flight of an eagle soaring through the blue sky; the world around is glowing with the glory of God; you are surrounded by brothers and sisters, and Jesus is sitting with you; you have no hurry, no jealousy, no pride, no anger, no selfishness

You are AT PEACE... you have been at peace since you entered the New Heaven and New Earth, and you will be at peace forever

E. How Peace Can "Rule" in Your Hearts

1. Understanding our calling: "Called to peace as members of one body"
 - a. This is the REASON Paul gives for us to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts: "Since as members of one body you were called to peace"
 - b. So much strife happens in church bodies
 - c. Unforgiveness, conflict, sin
 - d. BUT we are called to spend eternity together in the New Heaven and New Earth

2. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" = conscious mental choice
 - a. "rule" = official at the Olympic or Isthmian games, like an umpire
 - b. He would make all key judgments concerning the athletes... whether or not they competed according to the rules
 - c. The umpire would throw unruly or disqualified athletes out of the games
 - d. So the PEACE of Christ should sit as a judge on a throne over all your thoughts, seeing to it your heart is not troubled, not led astray into anxiety or strife

3. How?
 - a. Meditation on the Word

Much trouble of mind comes from not understanding how powerful God is, how sovereign He is, how good are His plans toward us

Romans 12:2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- b. Understanding right doctrine

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- c. Preaching to yourself: Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cures*

Psalm 42:5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God

The main trouble in this whole matter of spiritual depression in a sense is this, that we allow our self to talk to us instead of talking to our self. Am I just trying to be deliberately paradoxical? Far from it. This is the very essence of wisdom in this matter. *Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?* Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You have not originated them, but they start talking to you, they bring back the problem of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you. Now the Psalmist's treatment [in [Psalm 42](#)] was this; instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself, 'Why are you cast down, O my soul?' he asks. His soul had been repressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says: 'Self, listen for a moment, I will speak to you!'. Do you know what I mean? If you do not, you have but little experience.

The main art in the matter of spiritual living is to know how to handle yourself. You have to take yourself in hand, you have to address yourself, preach to yourself, question yourself.

You must say to your soul: 'Why art thou cast down'--what business have you to be disquieted? You must turn on yourself, upbraid yourself, condemn yourself, exhort yourself, and say to yourself: 'Hope thou in God'--instead of muttering in this depressed, unhappy way. And then you must go on to remind yourself of God, Who God is, and what God is and what God has done, and what God has pledged Himself to do. Then having done that, end on this great note: defy yourself, and defy other people, and defy the devil and the whole world, and say with this man: 'I shall yet praise Him my Savior and my God'.

d. Put your hope in God

John 14:1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

Isaiah 26:3-4 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

e. Thought life

Psalms 131:1-2 My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. ² But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

i) The great enemy of letting the peace of Christ rule in your heart is ANXIETY

ii) Sermon on the Mount: Jesus defeated anxiety with healthy reasoning

f. Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

g. Standing in the day of trouble... TAKE HEART, and do not let your heart be troubled

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

i) Peace of God will "guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus"

ii) Peace will stand like a guardian over the thoughts of your life

III. The Word of Christ Richly Dwelling in Your Heart (vs. 1-4)

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

A. The Word of God: Essential to Ongoing Christian Happiness

1. Not a slight encounter but a constant one
2. Faith comes from hearing the word... faith is also SUSTAINED by hearing the word
3. Key passage

John 15:7-8 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Consistent fruitfulness depends on remaining in Christ and having Christ's words remain in you

B. What Does it Mean to Have Christ's Word Dwell in You?

1. "Dwell" = live, like a living spiritual presence

2 Kings 4:8-10 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

- a. Make yourself right at home!!
 - i) That room was Elisha's room...the bed was his bed, he was welcome there
 - ii) So it should be with the word of Christ...it should be a familiar dweller in your heart
- b. "Dwell": Same Greek word applied to
 - i) The Holy Spirit living in us (Romans 8:11, 2 Timothy 1:14)
 - ii) God dwelling in us as in a temple (2 Cor. 6:6)
 - iii) Faith living in Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5)

c. Practically: BIBLE INTAKE and BIBLE CONTEMPLATION

- i) Reading through the Bible daily
- ii) Meditation and memorization of Scripture

Martin Luther said that he studied the Bible as he gathered apples. First, he shook the whole tree, that the ripest might fall; then he climbed the tree and shook each limb; and then when he had shaken each limb; he shook every branch. After that he examined every twig, and looked under every leaf. In other words, search the Bible as a whole, study each book, then study each chapter, study each verse, and finally study each word!

2. Dwell in you “Richly”

The indwelling word is a house guest doesn’t just stay with you and eat your food and use up your resources... He actually is a house guest who makes you RICH

You walk in the room in which the Word is staying and you notice a Rembrandt painting on the wall, a Michelangelo statue in the corner, a Persian silk rug on the floor... the room has never looked better!!! That’s what this houseguest does... he indwelling WORD

- a. This is not a dry, boring forced march through the pages of the Bible;
- b. The word of God is so powerful, so alive, so rich in its wisdom and truth that it will cause your hearts to flower with fruitfulness

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active.

Fruitfulness... or rich treasure... these come with the word of Christ

- c. Many great stories and myths are centered around huge stockpiles of physical treasure... the wealth of the earth: buried pirate treasure, Spanish galleons sunk with gold doubloons, the treasure of Monte Cristo in Alexander Dumas’s tale; even hidden Nazi treasures in the Alps of Austria at the end of WWII

- d. Ali Baba’s Cave (*Arabian Nights*: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves)

The cavern was filled with bales of all manner of expensive merchandise, heaped up from floor to ceiling with camelloads of silks and brocades and embroidered cloths and mounds upon mounds of varicolored carpetings. Besides which, he saw gold and silver coins without measure or account, some piled upon the ground and others bound in leather bags and sacks... so huge was the treasure that he decided it must have been accumulating there for years

- The story takes off from there! In the end, Ali Baba becomes fabulously wealthy by his secret cave

- e. But here the word of God is the true wealth... a rich word Paul loves to speak of

Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 2:2-3 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

- f. Storing up the truth of God's word makes you far richer than storing up gold and silver in a hidden cave

C. What Are the Rich Effects on the Body of Christ?

Note: the gifts here are for BOTH the individual Christian AND the Body of Christ as a group, as a community

So we have the word of Christ dwelling in us richly... but the effects spill out onto the whole community: wisdom, teaching, admonishment, worship, gratitude

1. Wisdom

- a. Surrounded by foolishness, a world not living wisely in light of God's Kingdom, the word of Christ alone gives true wisdom
- b. Wisdom enables us to discern the BEST destination and the best path to make our journey to that destination

Proverbs 1:1-5 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; ³ for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴ for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young-- ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance

2. Teaching

- a. Imparting spiritual knowledge... building the "City of Truth" in the hearts of growing disciples one brick at a time

Matthew 28:19-20 go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

b. Building up the Body of Christ in their knowledge of God and His world...
for practical obedience to the commands of Christ

c. The ministry of the word of God was central to the life of the early church

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Teaching was the core of Paul's ministry in Acts:

[in Antioch] Acts 11:26 So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

[in Corinth] Acts 18:11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

[in Ephesus] Acts 20:20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

d. Central to the Reformation was the restoration of the word to its rightful place in church life

i) All the Reformers were essentially great TEACHERS of the word of God

ii) Martin Luther ascribed the success of the German Reformation to the simple, faithful expounding of the Word of God

I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything (LW 51:77).

iii) John Calvin: above all a teacher of the Word of God

Last will and testament:

“In the name of God, I, John Calvin, servant of the Word of God in the Church of Geneva, weakened by many illnesses . . . thank God that he has shown not only mercy toward me, his poor creature, and . . . has suffered me a partaker of his grace to serve Him through my work . . . “Moreover, I declare that I endeavored to teach His Word undefiled and to expound Holy Scripture faithfully according to the measure of grace which He has given me

iv) Ulrich Zwingli: systematically preached the NT straight from the Greek text week after week

v) William Tyndale: burned at the stake, gave his life to translate the Bible into the common tongue of the English people

vi) Charles Spurgeon, teaching student pastors: SOLID DOCTRINE

Spurgeon: “Sermons should have real teaching in them, and their doctrine should be solid, substantial, and abundant... Put plenty into your sermons, gentlemen. After hearing some discourses I have been reminded of the request of the farmer’s boy to his missus when eating his broth: ‘Missus, I wish you would let that chicken run through this broth once more.’”

Brothers, our church members do not need watery broth when they hear us preach! They need the solid meat of sound doctrine... only that will enable them to survive the devil’s attacks

3. Admonishing

- a. Negative aspect of the ministry of the word
- b. Root word : noutheteo, from which NANC (National Association of Nouthetic Counseling)
- c. Means to warn someone scripturally... to head sin off at the pass
- d. Core of a solid biblical counseling ministry
 - i) Applied to mortification of sin... let’s keep warning each other to put sin to death
 - ii) Applied to marriage... counsel each other in love, purity, self-sacrifice... let’s care about each other’s marriages
 - iii) Applied to all areas of daily life: stewardship, work, parenting, prayer, etc. COUNSEL EACH OTHER

4. Worship, Both Private and Corporate

Colossians 3:16 and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

- a. Singing flows from hearts saturated with the Word of God
- b. Singing is a natural outflow from thankful hearts who have been enflamed with love for Christ by the Spirit
- c. Moses wrote and the people sang a hymn of praise when God destroyed Pharaoh at the Red Sea

Exodus 15:1-2 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. ² The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

d. The Psalms is the songbook of David... of the Old Testament saints

2 Samuel 23:1 Now these are the last words David..., the sweet psalmist of Israel

e. The apostles sang a hymn with Christ on the night He was betrayed

f. Christian history is enriched by great song writers

i) Bernard of Clairvaux: "Jesus the very thought of thee"

ii) Martin Luther: "A mighty fortress is our God"

Foreword to a Hymnbook:

"I, Doctor Martin Luther, wish all lovers of the unshackled art of music grace and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ!

I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure given to mankind by God.

The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them.... In summa, next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits

iii) Isaac Watts: wrote *When I survey the wondrous Cross; Jesus shall reign where 'er the Sun, Our God our help in ages past*

iv) Charles Wesley: *And Can It Be, O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

v) John Newton: *Amazing Grace*

vi) Modern spiritual song and hymnwriters: Michael Card, Keith Getty, Stewart Townend, others

g. Christians will sing a new song in heaven

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Next time:

Two other aspects:

The Name of Christ Motivating Your Heart

Thanks to Christ Constantly Given by Your Heart

IV. Application

A. Follow My Practical Advice for Peace

1. Renew your mind with the Promises of God, the doctrine of God
2. Meditate much on the word for the sustaining of your peace
3. PREACH TO YOURSELF
4. Learn to bring your anxieties to Christ in prayer

B. Know the Word of God

a. We must know God's word broadly and deeply

i) Broadly: read through the Bible in a year, every year... George Mueller, who cared for 10,000 orphans in his life in the 19th century in England, read through the whole Bible over 100 times in his life!... this will give you a sense of the WHOLE Bible

ii) Deeply: memorize some key books of the Bible... Ephesians or Colossians or Philippians or Romans

b. We must meditate on it richly (Greek word implies lavish wealth... like Ali Baba's treasure cave, countless riches, rare and beautiful)... ponder the verses... savor them... then repeat them throughout the day

c. Read carefully and ask questions of the text:

- Is there any command to obey?
- Is there any promise to believe?
- Is there a good example to follow?
- Is there any sin to avoid?
- Do I learn anything about God?
- Do I learn anything about man?
- Is there anything I can thank God for?

d. Teach each other... especially if you are called and gifted to be a teacher of the word

e. Admonish each other... don't be afraid to warn people...

f. Pray for the development of our COUNSELING ministry

C. Enrich Your Life with Worship

as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1. Memorize hymns
2. Prepare yourself for corporate worship
3. SING!!! Sing loudly and strongly... the voices of others will drown out your lack of skill... we're not asking you to do a solo