

Sunday, July 18, 2021—Colossians 3:16 Singing with Grace In Your Heart

### **Colossians 3:16**

- **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**
- The Greek word translated “admonish” in verse 16 occurs 8 times in 8 verses in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. Of the 8 occurrences it is rendered in English as “warn” 4 times and “admonish” 4 times.
  - Acts 20:31—“warn”
  - Romans 15:14—“admonish”
  - I Corinthians 4:14—“as my beloved sons I warn you”
  - Colossians 1:28—“warning”
  - Colossians 3:16—“admonishing”
  - I Thessalonians 5:12—“admonish”
  - I Thessalonians 5:14—“warn”
  - II Thessalonians 3:15—“admonish him as a brother”
- According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) the based definition of “admonish” means to: “To exhort or urge (a person) *to* do something, esp. as a duty or obligation; to tell or warn (a person) *that* he or she should do something.”
  - While this helps me understand what it means to admonish someone it does not help in terms of grasping the tone and tenor of how it is to be done. The following verses and definitions will assist with discerning how it is to be done.
- The OED offers I Cor. 4:14 as a scriptural example for the second meaning of admonish: “To give advice or warning, esp. by way of correction of error, or guidance as to future behavior.”
  - Notice that Paul warns them in I Cor. 4:14 “as my beloved sons.”
- Likewise, the OED offers II Thess. 3:15 as a Biblical example of their third definition for admonish: “To advise or warn (a person), esp. by way of correction.”

- Notice that how this is to be done according to the verse, “as a brother.”
- Simply stated, to “admonish” someone means to put someone in mind of something or to warn, or caution one gently about future behavior.
- Romans 15:14—believers ought to be “able also to admonish one another” or warn each other gently in a reciprocal manner.
- Acts 27:9-10—Paul admonished the people he was with or put them in mind of the danger that lie ahead. Paul was not mean, ugly, or nasty he simply informed them of future danger should they continue in their current course of action.
- An admonition or warning of danger ahead can come in one of two sources:
  - II Corinthians 10:11—the word of God
  - Romans 15:14—other believers
- Romans 15:14—as believers we ought to be able to admonish one another. No one likes to be wrong or faulted, but if we desire to grow in right doctrine and conduct we must from time to time hear an admonition. One’s ability to receive admonishing reveals the character of that person. If someone is a scorner, wicked, or prideful they will hate being admonished and will fight back.
  - Proverbs 27:6
  - Psalms 141:5
- Titus 3:10—it is better to receive an admonition and heed it before it turns into open rebuke and rejection.
  - Proverbs 9:7
  - Proverbs 13:1
  - I Timothy 5:20
  - II Timothy 3:16
  - II Timothy 4:2
- [Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Function of Music in the Local Church](#)—August 18, 2019

- Ephesians 5:19—“speaking to yourselves” music is not about yourself. When the church sings we are singing for the benefit for each other.
- Colossians 3:16—“teaching and admonishing” one another. One-anothering is a function of the music in a local church.
- The issue with music is not the style in which the song is sung but does it accurately express the nature and character of God. Does the song contain sound doctrine?
- The function of music is to teach and admonish. The doctrine content is the primary concern.
  - John 4:24
  - Philippians 3:3—our worship of the Lord ought to come from a thankful & rejoicing heart for all that the Lord has done for us.
- Ephesians 5:19 & Colossians 3:16—worship is a heart issue. The emotion of music is internal to external.

#### *Myths About Music*

- Music draws me closer to God.
  - Colossians 2:10
  - Ephesians 1:6
  - Colossians 3:3
- Music invites the presence of God into the worship service.
  - Much of what passes for praise and worship uses music to try and persuade God to do things for us that His word says He has already accomplished.