

LIFE

Group Study Guide

January 10, 2010

David Clayton

Colossians 3:16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . .”

Opening: Project

Practical ways this Life Group can help the Ards in the recent loss of their home in fire. Go to www.summervillechurchofchrist.com and you see the link to the Ard's Blog for the specific help they need.

DIG

Read the first part of Colossians 3:16 (we'll cover the rest of the verse over the next couple of weeks).

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . .”

- ✚ What does the image of “dwelling” in the word convey to you?
- ✚ What did David mean in his lesson when he said, “Don't treat the Bible as a textbook?”

Read Romans 15:4 (Benefit of the Word dwelling in us)

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope.”

- ✚ Purpose of the Word is to teach us. How teachable are you?
- ✚ Along with teaching there must be discipline (endurance).
Why is dwelling in the Word so difficult for so many Christians?
- ✚ According to this verse what are two benefits from being taught the Scriptures?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 (Power from the Word dwelling in us)

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

- ✚ From Scripture we are taught about the divine power and promises of God.
- ✚ How does this verse help you right now with a life experience you're going through?
- ✚ How does the Word of God dwelling in you richly help you escape the corruption of the world? Just knowing what “not to do” is not always enough. How can we practically apply the Scripture to the temptations we face?

REFLECT: Practical Ways to become comfortable (dwelling) in the Word of Christ

Read Acts 17:10-12

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

- **Noble character:** open-minded: Unbiased, Willingness to learn.
Do you approach Scripture with the desire to learn or “prove” your position?
- **Received** the message: Accept, Receive Kindly, Welcome as friend into your home.
Dr. Hendricks: *Knowledge that is self-discovered is stored in the deepest part of the mind and remains the longest in the memory. There is no jewel more precious than that which you have mined yourself.*
Describe a struggle you are having with someone to open their hearts like a welcome mat to the Word of Christ.
What would be some reasons why a person might not want to “receive the message” or why it would be “unwelcomed”?
- **Great Eagerness:** Strong desire, Anticipation
What are some ways that you use to keep Bible Study from being boring or a drudgery?
How does prayer help create an eagerness and anticipation in Bible Study?
Henry Ford: *“Cut your own wood and warm yourself twice”*. In other words, as you chop your own firewood, you enjoy not only the heat from the logs glowing in the fireplace but you also enjoy the physical warmth produced by the exercise of chopping your own firewood. How does this relate to Bible Study?
- **Examined the Scriptures:** Legal term to scrutinize the evidence. To be careful, exacting, to weigh or judge.
Jerry Bridges: *“As we search the Scriptures, we must allow them to search us, to sit in judgment upon our character and conduct.”*
- **Daily:**
Suggestion for 2010: Read 119 – 8 verses everyday. Psalm 119 is about the Word of God. There are 8 verses for every letter in the Hebrew alphabet. In the Hebrew, each of the 8 verses would begin with the Hebrew letter to help children and adults to memorize the benefits of God’s Word.

PRAYER REQUESTS

